

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN REVIEW REPORT – 2022-2023

Summary:

The Shire of Denmark endorsed and adopted the *Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy 2021-2031* in March 2022 with a corresponding *Sustainability Action Plan* intended as a dynamic operational document to be reviewed on an annual basis as a means to ensure and direct progression of actions.

The actions within the *Sustainability Action Plan* are categorised into each of the corresponding ten sustainability pillars outlined within the Sustainability Strategy, derived from the One Planet Living Framework. The actions within each pillar are set out in tiers from higher level governance and policy related actions, to Shire operational actions, followed by community-oriented actions. Each action is aligned to a strategic plan or document, is ranked into a priority rating, and is assigned to a specific Shire directorate responsible for delivery and incorporation into the Shire's annual Operational Plan.

Update:

The Shire Sustainability Officer is responsible for undertaking an annual review of the identification, implementation and reporting of measurable actions from the *Sustainability Action Plan* to community as part of the annual reporting process to Council as stipulated in the *Sustainability Strategy* (p.18).

A review of all of the identified actions within the *Sustainability Action Plan (2022)* was undertaken over the months of May through to July 2023 in consultation with Shire Managers and their respective teams as to the progress status of each action item.

Managers were also encouraged to review the action items as to their feasibility for implementation and to amend or add any action items that may be deemed appropriate to include for improved sustainable best practice for future implementation.

Annual reporting to Water Corporation was undertaken in November 2022. The Shire received notification of re-endorsement as an accredited Waterwise Council in February 2023. The Sustainable Projects Committee determined at their February 2023 meeting not to pursue with Waterwise accreditation with the recommendation that actions from the Water Efficiency Action Plan were to be incorporated into the Sustainability Action Plan. The internal Shire Water and Energy Management Team (comprised of representatives from each management directorate) met in May to assess and transcribe relevant waterwise actions into the Sustainability Action Plan (2022).

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility
SW1	Maintain the Shire's Waterwise accreditation. AMENDED: Merge the Waterwise actions from the Water Efficiency Action Plan into the Sustainability Action Plan	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Sustainability

As a consequence an additional 17 waterwise action items were penned for inclusion into the revised *Sustainability Action Plan* resulting in a total of 29 Sustainable Water actions; and increasing the total number of actions within the Plan from 104 (2021-22) to 121 (2022-23).

Interestingly, action item *ZW7 Investigate funding opportunities to divert waste water from the inlet to the Golf course and Denmark Agricultural College* aligns with action item *SW24 Investigate non-scheme sources of water for irrigating parks and gardens (eg. bore and rainwater tanks)*.

REGIONAL ALLIANCE CLIMATE DASHBOARD

It is also of note that a concurrent project co-funded through the South Coast Alliance and the WALGA Regional Climate Alliance (with four neighbouring local governments) - in collaboration with Ironbark Sustainability and Kausal - has been to develop a Regional Climate Dashboard with 3 components as outlined below:

Climate Trends: Overview of changes in rainfall and temperature in the south coast region, both current and projected, and their implications for the community.

Actions: Dedicated pages for *Households, Small Businesses and/or Industry, Transport, Agriculture, Waste, and Land Usage*. These pages will showcase the current trajectory of emissions for each sector, proposed actions to reduce emissions, and case studies of actions being taken within this space. The charts will allow users to visualise the impact of various actions on emissions. Additionally, we will provide links to further information and opportunities for involvement, with case studies linking to Actors, as described below.

Actors: For each LGA and community group collaborators, we will develop pages that capture essential information about the group, including their ongoing initiatives related to climate action. We will also highlight ways in which the community can support these groups or find more information about their efforts.

The operational component can and has been instrumental in the review and reporting of actions from the Sustainability Action Plan. The Dashboard also provides a platform for the Shire to be able to showcase the Shire's Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan to enable the community and Council to be able to visually and interactively access up to date information on each action and its corresponding status and background information via the Climate Dashboard website. Please note that this is an active project which is currently still under development.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION ITEMS STATUS

Each action item's progress status was assessed and designated as either: *yet to commence, current, ongoing, or completed*; with a corresponding comment detailing progress of implementation. A graphical analysis was then undertaken to provide a snapshot of progress status of all actions across the Shire; by Sustainability Pillar; and for each Directorate.

BY IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Of the 121 action items within the Sustainability Action Plan (2022-23), 22% (27) are yet to commence; 26% (31) are currently being implemented; 28% (34) are ongoing actions; and 24% (29) have been completed.

The primary reasons cited for those items yet to commence include resourcing and time constraints, that it was not yet budgeted for, or that the commencement was pending completion of an alternate process (such as the linear progression of the Shire’s planning framework documents).

Ongoing action items include annual reporting, implementation of annual operational programs, or the ongoing cultural workplace directives and policies towards sustainable best practice.

Comparative to the analysis of data from 2021-22 the number of action items that have been completed has remained consistent each year, with 14% (15) action items recorded as completed in 2021-22; comparative to a cumulative total of 24% (29) actions completed by 2022-2023.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION ITEMS STATUS BY IMPLEMENTATION PHASE COMPARATIVE 2021-22 TO 2022-23				
	Yet to Commence	Current	Ongoing	Completed
2021-22	34% (34)	27% (28)	25% (26)	14% (15)
2022-23	22% (27)	26% (31)	28% (34)	24% (29)

Table 1: Sustainability Action Items Progress Status by Implementation Phase Comparative 2021-2022 to 2022-23

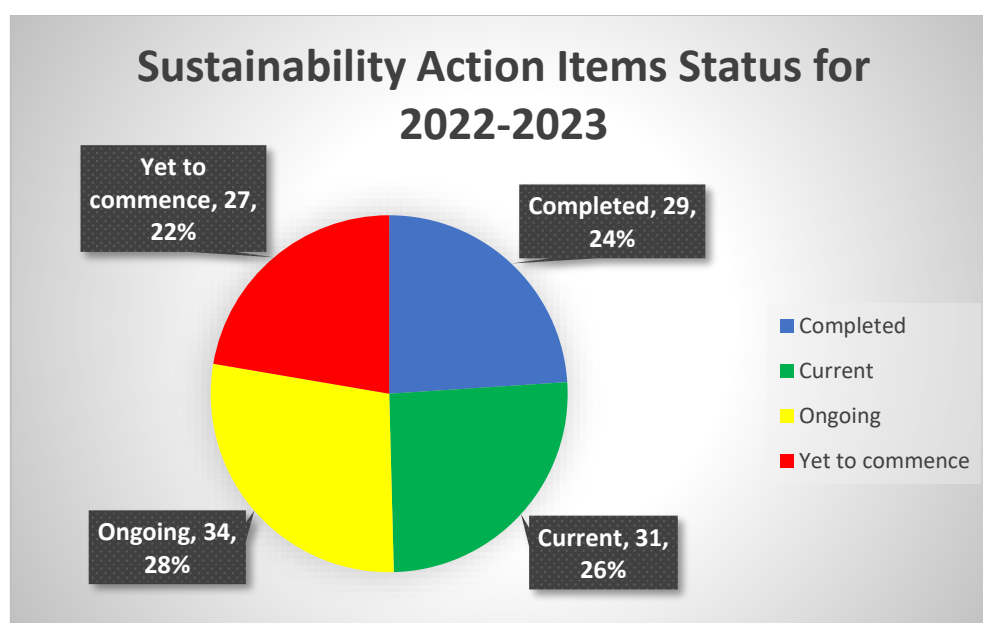


Figure 1: Sustainability Action Items Progress Status across Shire for 2022-23

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION ITEMS STATUS PER SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR

Sustainability action items were then analysed depicting their progress status against each sustainability pillar.

All sustainability pillars have action items that are represented across all progress implementation stages with the exception of Equity & Local Economy; which has 3 completed actions and 5 ongoing action items.

However, it should be noted that sustainability pillars have a disproportionate number of action items within each category (eg. Sustainable Water now has 29 actions;

Culture & Community has 17 action items; Land & Nature has 16 items; with Equity & Local Economy only having 8 action items in total for implementation).

Sustainability Pillars	Yet to commence	Current	Ongoing	Completed	Total
Health & Happiness	1	4	2	2	9
Equity & Local Economy	0	0	5	3	8
Culture & Community	4	3	6	4	17
Land & Nature	5	7	3	1	16
Sustainable Water	7	6	7	9	29
Local & Sustainable Food	2	2	2	1	7
Sustainable Travel & Transport	3	2	2	2	9
Sustainable Materials & Products	1	1	3	2	7
Zero Waste	2	3	3	4	12
Zero Carbon Energy	2	3	1	1	7

Table 2: Status of Sustainability Action Items by Sustainability Pillar 2022-23



Figure 2: Status of Sustainability Action Items by Sustainability Pillar 2022-23

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION ITEMS BY DIRECTORATE

Data on sustainability action items corresponding to responsible directorate was also extrapolated to depict allocation of action items against progress status.

The following table and graph indicates the number of action items apportioned to each Shire directorate, with a significant number of action items allocated to the Sustainable Projects Team (41) which is a substantial increase from 31 the previous year. Action items have been reassigned over the year amongst Directorates with Community Services having a total of 14 items (down from 19 the previous year); Development Services has 17 action items; Waste &

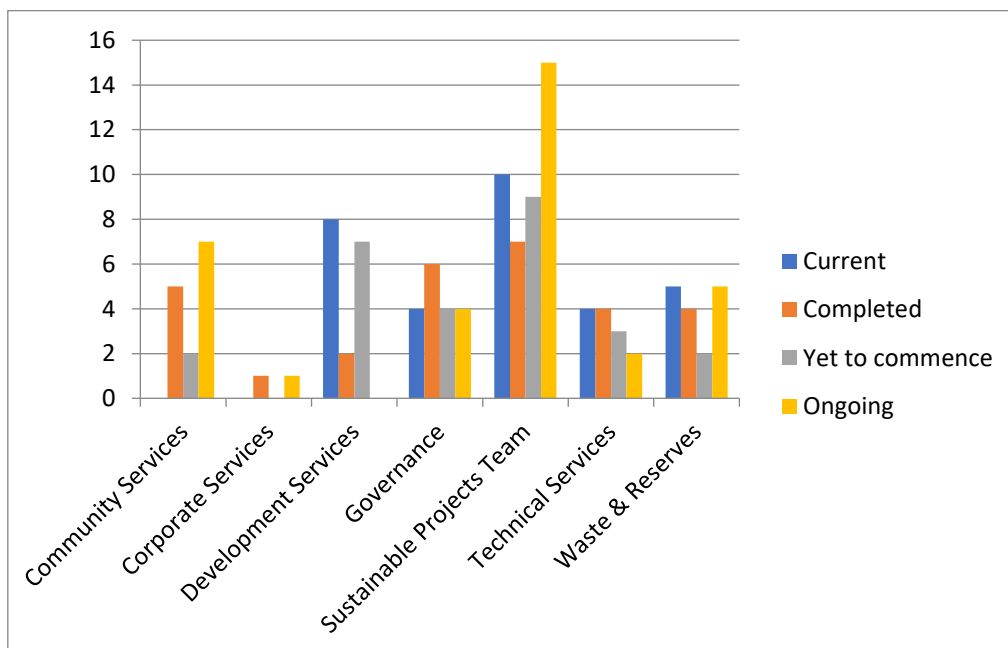
Reserves (16 up from 11); and Governance (18, one up from 17). A lesser number is attributed to Technical Services (13 up from 10); followed by Corporate Services directorate (2 action items in total).

Also indicated is that the Sustainable Projects Team (including Sustainability) has a significant number of items that are ongoing (15); 10 items currently being progressed; 7 completed items; with 9 action items yet to commence.

However, it should be noted that just assessing the number of action items apportioned to each directorate does not take into account the level of demand or resources required to undertake implementation of that action or corresponding project.

Responsible Directorate	Yet to commence	Current	Ongoing	Completed	TOTALS
Community Services	2	0	7	5	14
Corporate Services	0	0	1	1	2
Development Services	7	8	0	2	17
Governance	4	4	4	6	18
Sustainable Projects Team	9	10	15	7	41
Technical Services	3	4	2	4	13
Waste & Reserves	2	5	5	4	16

Figure 2: Sustainability Action Items Status by Directorate – 2022-23



Sustainability Action Items Status by Directorate - 2022-2023

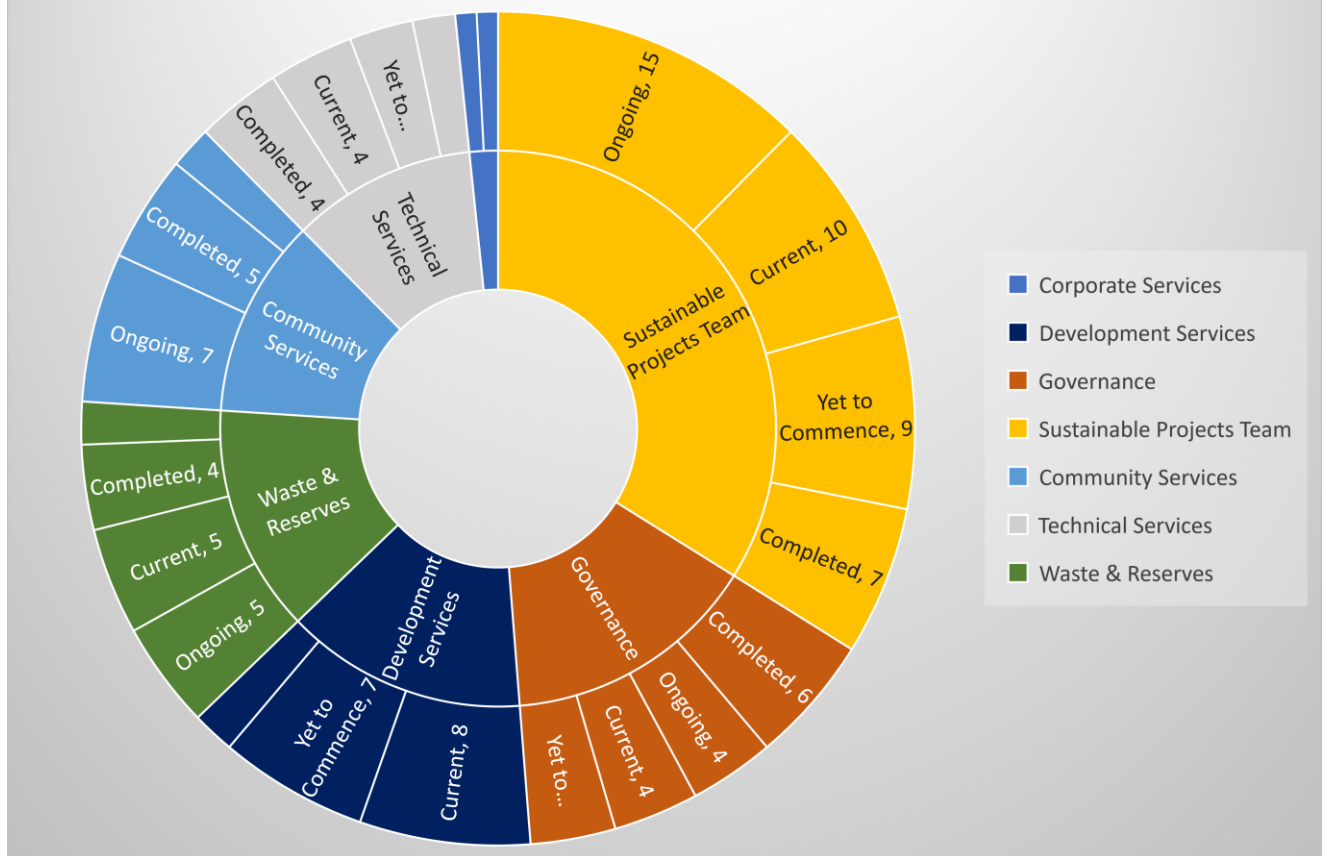


Figure 3: Status of Sustainability Action Items by Directorate 2022-23

Next Steps:

Provision of the Sustainability Action Plan Review Report will be incorporated into the Sustainable Projects Team Annual Report to Council as a reporting mechanism to community and Council as to progression of implementation of actions from the Sustainability Action Plan and as a testament to the Shire's ongoing commitment to best sustainable business practice and improved sustainability outcomes.

The Climate Dashboard continues to be developed with an indicative timeframe of November as completion date for the operational LGA component of the Dashboard.

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1: *Sustainability Action Plan Review raw data*