Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029

Community feedback report

March 2024

Executive summary

- Consultation with the community on the draft Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029 was undertaken between Friday 16 February and Sunday 10 March 2024.

- 76 responses were received on the Making Marion Platform and 4 email submissions from the community and key stakeholder groups.

- 90% of respondents supported the plan, 8% were neutral and 3% did not support the plan.

- 68% of respondents said council should do more, 30% said the plan presents a good balance, and 3% said council should do less.

- The areas that our community feel need increased focus and resourcing include:

    - revegetation
    - declared weed mapping and eradication
    - biodiversity site management
    - threatened species re-introduction
    - environmental volunteer support and development

Engagement Snapshot

Purpose of engagement

To seek the views and input from the community on the proposed Draft Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029.

Community consultation commenced on **16/02/2024** and closed on **10/03/2024**.

Consultation consisted of:

- Social media campaign
- Making Marion eNewsletter (~4000 subscribers)
- Emails to key stakeholders including local Friends of Groups
- Inclusion in the Green Thymes newsletter

76

survey responses

received via

Making Marion Survey

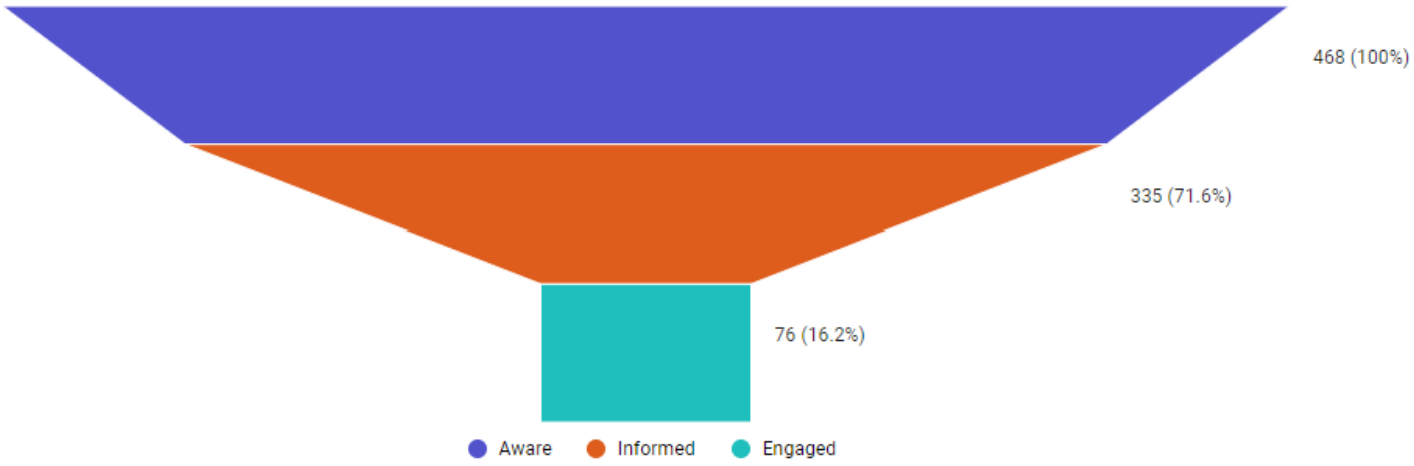
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Email submissions

From community and key stakeholders

Engagement Snapshot

This is a summary of the number of visits by stakeholders and community members to Making Marion (aware), downloads (informed) of project materials and total surveys completed (engaged).



Definitions:

- **Aware** – Community member has made at least one visit to the project page
- **Informed** – Community has accessed some available material on the project
- **Engaged** – Community member has contributed to the project using available tools (i.e., survey)

Social Media Summary

15/01/2023 - 05/02/2023

Posts	Impressions	Reactions
6	4,22K	39
Reach	**Engagements**	**Engagement Rate**
3,81K	45	1.28%

Definitions:

Impressions - show the number of times your content was displayed to these users.

Reach - shows the number of unique users that were exposed to your content. If the same person sees one of your posts three times, the Impressions would be 3 but the Reach metric would only count 1.

Engagements - inform about how many times users engaged with a post during their lifetime. Engagement is seen as the combined number of reactions to, comments on, and shares of a post.

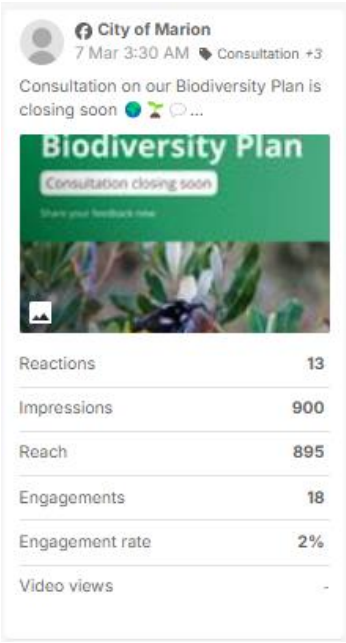
Engagement Rate: Calculated by the total engagements a post received divided by the total number of impressions on that post.

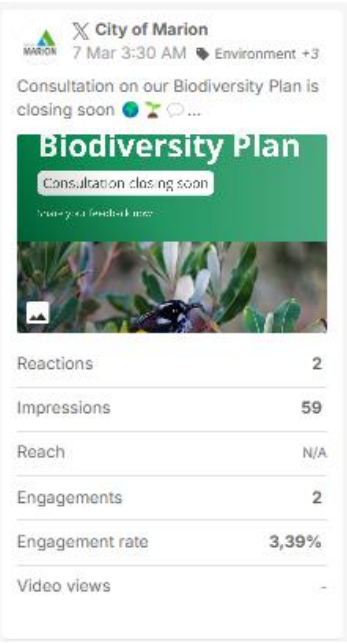
Reactions - Reactions are a type of engagement with your Facebook content. They are comprised of the total amount of Love, Haha, Wow, Sad, Angry, and Like actions that users took on your post. This can be reported on in the Measure module.

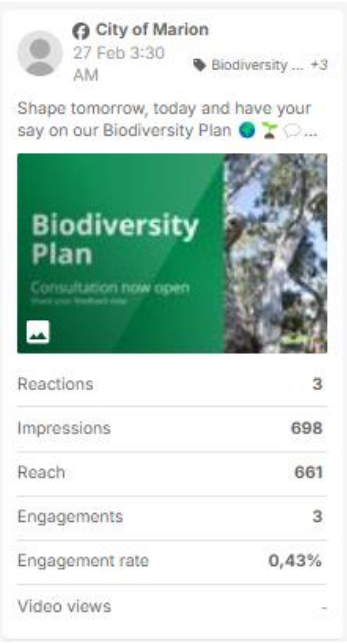
Social media campaign

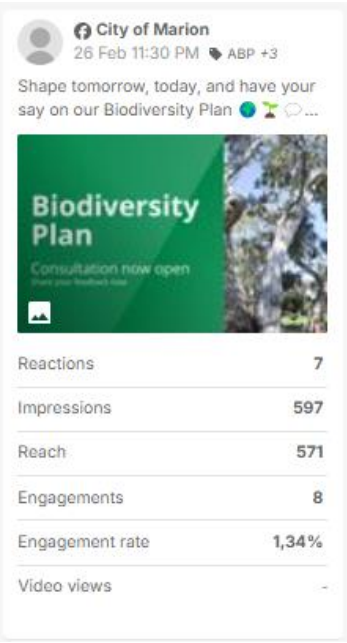
Content:

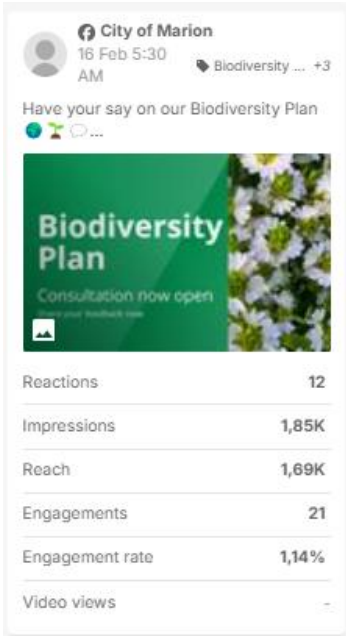
The campaign used consisted of Facebook and X (Twitter) posts throughout the consultation period to promote the opportunity to participate in the survey.

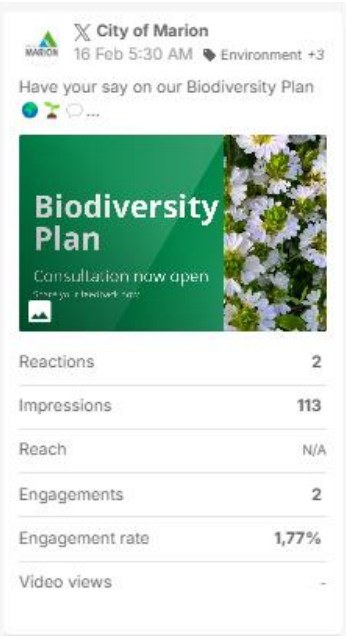






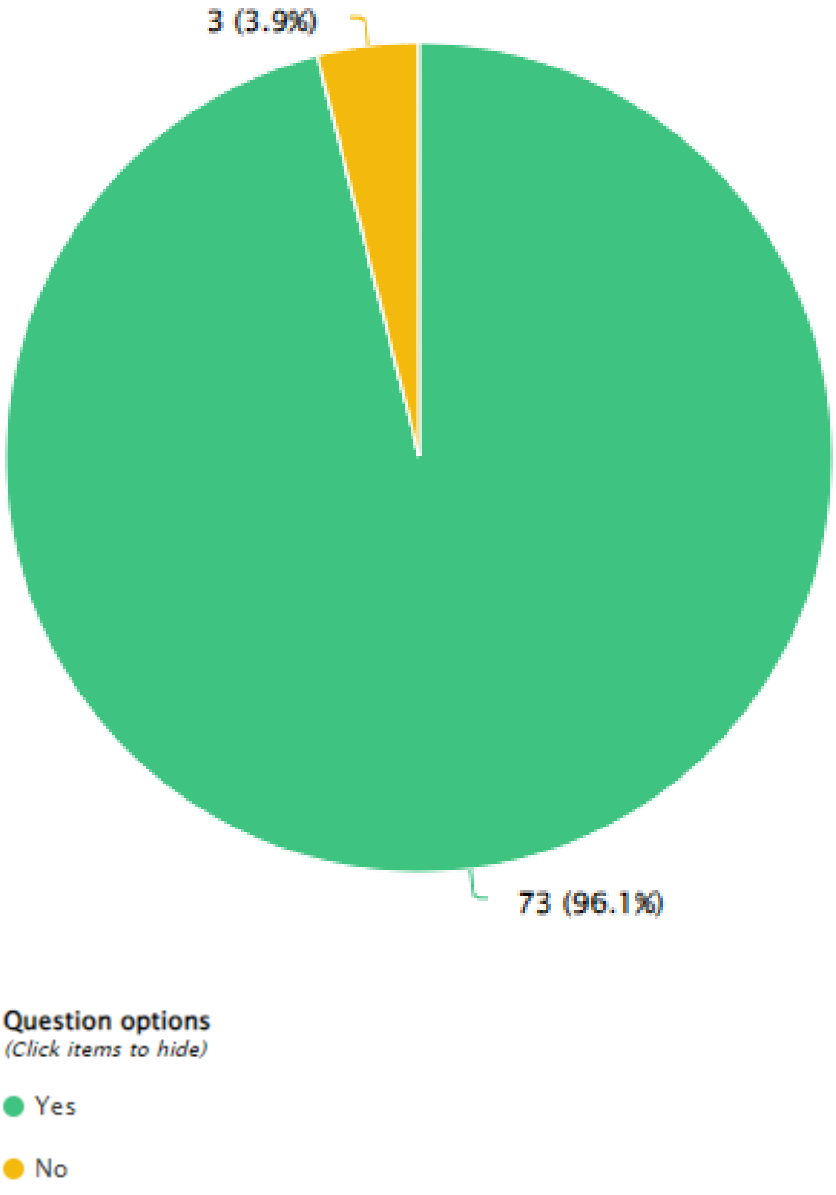






Participants responses

Q1: Do you live, work or play in the City of Marion?



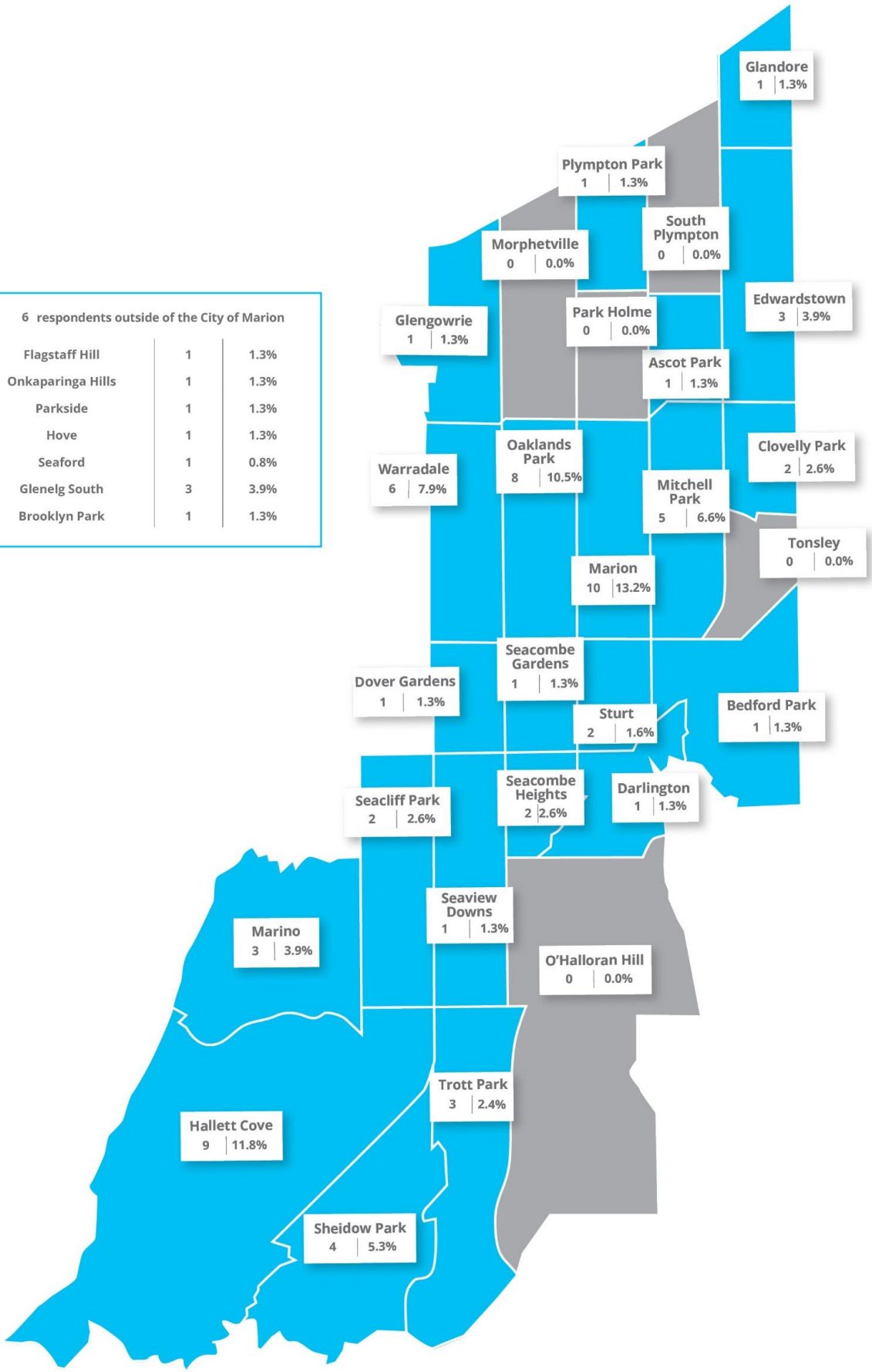
Q2: Please tell is about your interest? Refer to Appendix 1 (page 3)

Q3: Street name? Refer to the attached Making Marion report

Participants responses

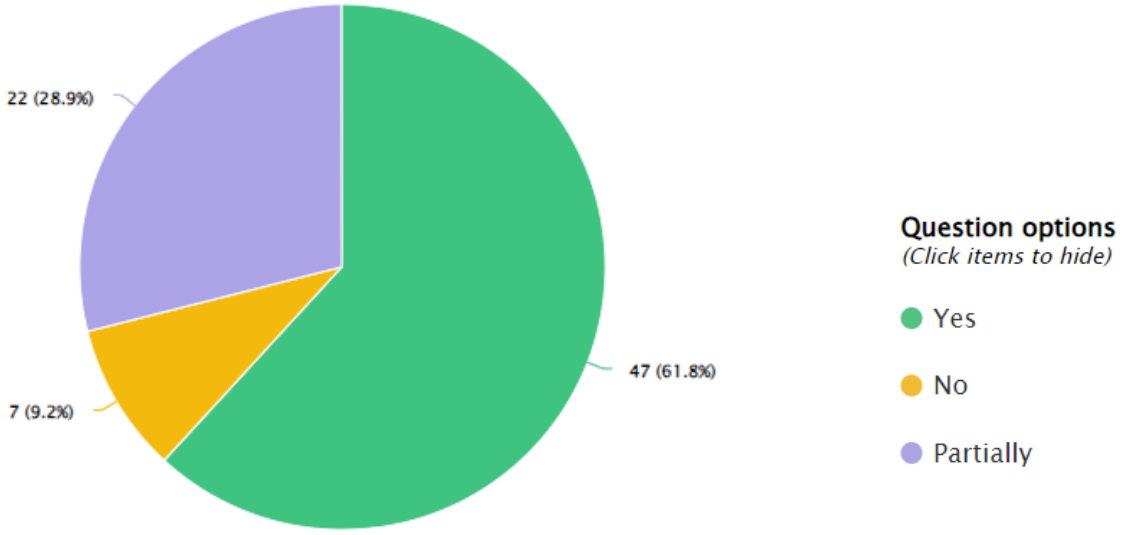
Q4: Suburb

6 respondents outside of the City of Marion		
Flagstaff Hill	1	1.3%
Onkaparinga Hills	1	1.3%
Parkside	1	1.3%
Hove	1	1.3%
Seaford	1	0.8%
Glenelg South	3	3.9%
Brooklyn Park	1	1.3%

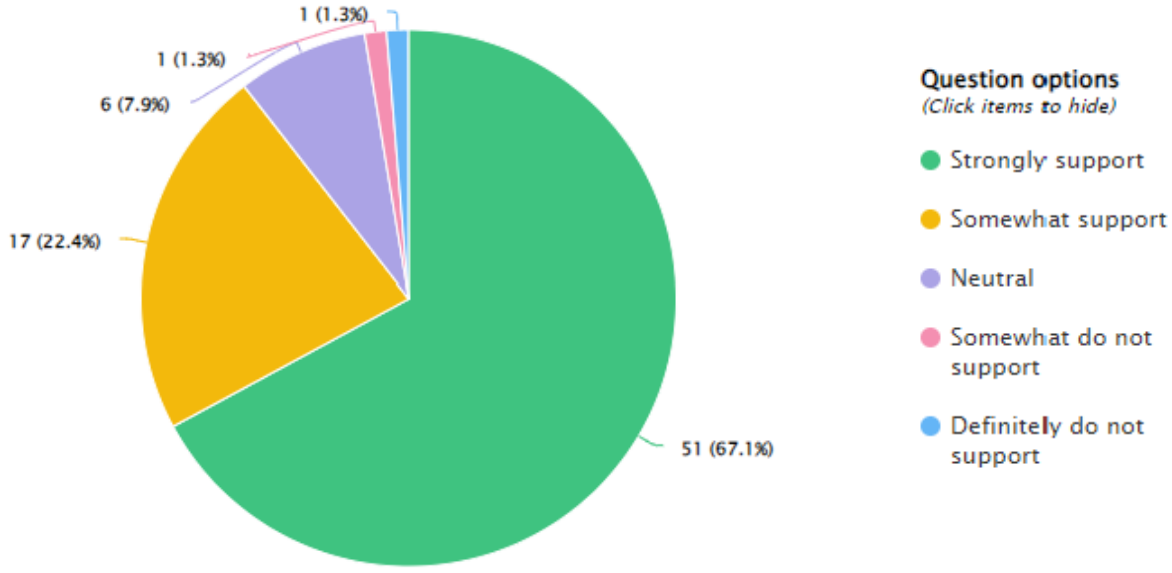


Participant responses

Q5: Have you read the draft Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029?



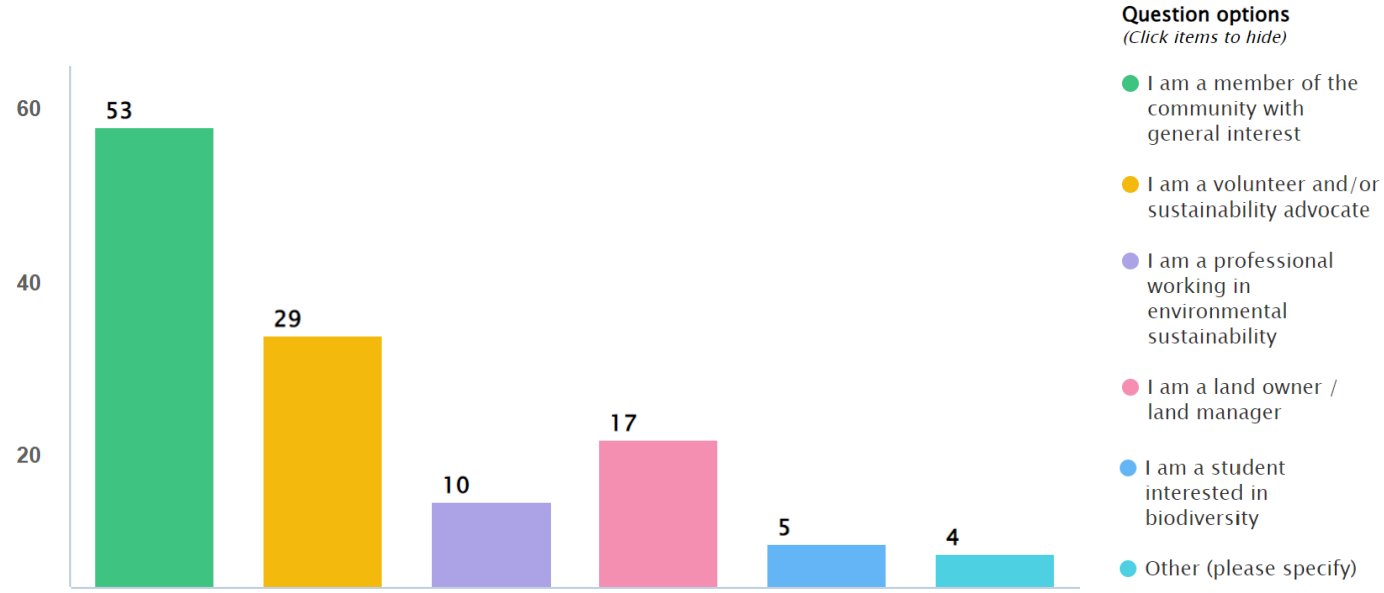
Q6: What is your overall level of support for the draft Biodiversity Plan?



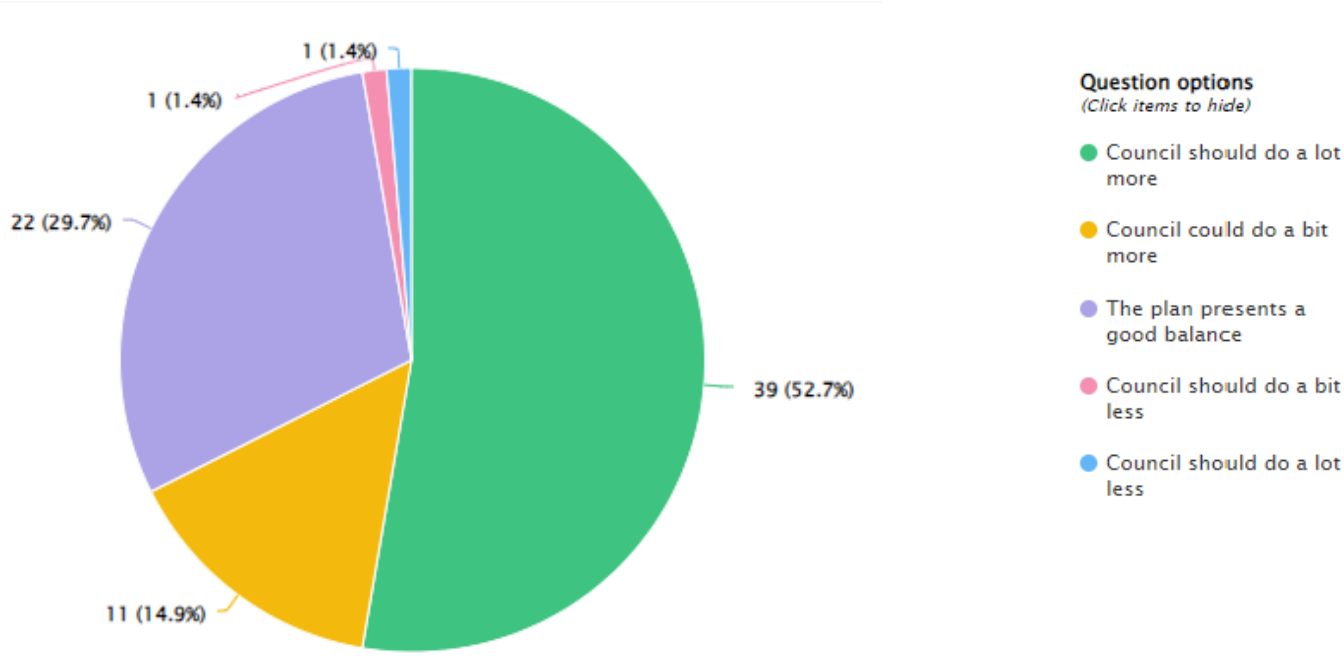
Q7&8: If you somewhat do not, or definitely do not support the plan please tell us why? Refer to Appendix 2 (page 17)

Participant responses

Q9: What is your interest in the Biodiversity Plan? (Tick all that apply)

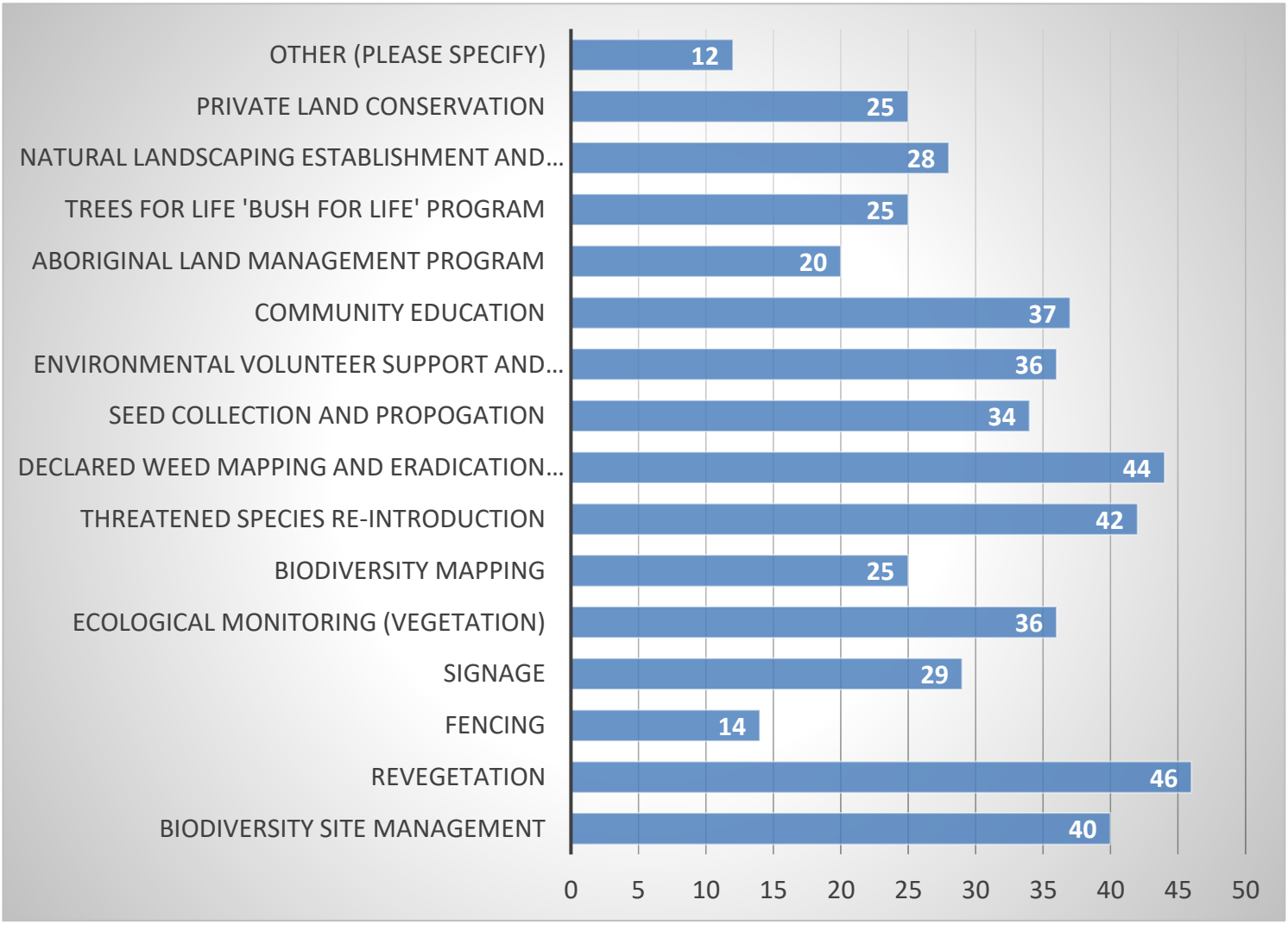


Q10: What is your level of support for the City of Marion continuing to improve local biodiversity?



Participant responses

Q11: Are there any areas that you feel need increased focus and resourcing? (Tick all that apply)



Updates made to the plan based on community feedback

Community feedback has been key in the development of the plan and has been used to further enhance the draft plan. The following table details the key topics identified in the feedback and how the plan has been updated.

Feedback	Update
Include the weeds Acacia cyclops (Coastal Wattle), Acacia saligna (Golden Wreath Wattle) and Cenchrus macrourus (African Feather grass).	Incorporate these weeds into the Weed management Section on Page 19.
Include World Environment Day 2023 site into the Restoration site map.	Incorporate this site into Restoration Map on Page 13.
Educate private landholders about declared weed control.	Provide Authorised Officer Training to key Biodiversity staff.
Control of pest animals.	Continue to advocate State Government (Green Adelaide) to take control of pest animals such as foxes and rabbits to ensure a 'whole of landscape approach' is adopted.
More native street tree planting for improved urban wildlife connectivity.	Noted, similar comments in TreeAMP engagement and addressed as part of that process.
Impacts of introduced bird species and over-abundant native species (Noisy Minors) on our native bird species.	Identify opportunities to reduce introduced bird and Noisy Minor numbers through strategic revegetation plans in our reserves using expert advice from local bird specialists.
Stronger emphasis on weed control.	Incorporate Weedy Species Principle from previous "Remnant Native Vegetation Plan'' into the Weed management section on Page 19.
Ensuring that local provenance plant species are used for revegetation.	Incorporate this message into the Wildlife and Revegetation Principles section on Page 22 and remove the statement on genetically adapted species to ensure that local species are prioritised.
Educating private land holders on the importance of declared weed control.	Incorporate this message into the Private Land Conservation section on Page 19.

Appendix 1

Question 2: Please tell us about your interest? (64 comments).

Respondents comments

1	Live & Work in the City of Marion.
2	general aspects & accessibility
3	Sixty years resident. Past Marion councillor volunteers weekly as a JP at council History and church. I'm a Marion Godfather
4	I'm very interested in helping to make my area more environmentally friendly by making it "greener". I believe in n a mixture of native/indigenous/and exotic plants. I have planted the verge opposite (in front of the SAPowernetworks substation with a.mix of plants to attract bees, butterflies and birds. I was also instrumental in having street trees planted in my street and an adjoining street.
5	I love the natural world. I am deeply concerned about tree loss, biodiversity loss, habitat loss of native species, industrial development and impacts of climate change on life on earth.
6	Use the outdoor swimming pool and visit family
7	I love gardening and making my property a safe spot for birds
8	I live in the city of marion
9	Community, culture, sport
10	I am concerned at the increase in suburban traffic and speeds of vehicles in our area. We need policing or speed humps or some other technology to slow down and discourage traffic in suburban residential areas.
11	Interested in Parks & Recreation areas. Picnic & BBQ facilities.
12	Local to Ballara Park. Volunteer with Friends of Ohalloran Hill Inc. In Glenthorne N P.
13	No
14	I live in Marion close to the wetlands
15	Live and play here
16	Restoration, renewal of parkland/public space vegetation in tandem with advised eradication of redundant plantings. Greater attention to suitable, durable street tree plantings to create corridors for pedestrian traffic and fauna. Not all native varieties previously planted have succeeded, for all the merits of native regeneration, a blended approach may still be acceptable, it is certainly possible as evidenced in many rural council administrations where a cost/compromise has been necessary. The commitment to wetlands has been inspirational for Marion, couldn't be more pleased. The retained green space in the face of imperative development has been good, perhaps it can be exploited to an even greater degree. One negative, can artificial turf/lawn be banned from verge spaces etc. it's an acknowledges disaster. In general, well done Marion!
17	Land rehabilitation and bio-diversity enhancement
18	More Vegetation along the Expressway.
19	I am a resident in the Marion Council area. I have an interest in including native vegetation on my own property as well as native vegetation in the area to support survival or plant species and to provide food and habitat for native fauna. I have had an interest in the revegetation and re-greening of Mitchell Street Reserve in particular.
20	Care about the environment and the impact it has on wellbeing.
21	Native fauna and flora
22	biodiversity is extremely important and its great to see the COM backing this plan with a significant financial contribution.
23	Supporting community initiatives , actively participating as a volunteer in local groups to keep our spaces healthy and green
24	Cycling, Walking, Volunteering
25	Walking and permaculture.

Respondents comments

26	gardening, engineering computer programing history
27	The natural environment
28	I have a strong personal and professional interest in biodiversity protection and restoration.
29	environment, nature, biodiversity
30	General interest in natural environment
31	Increasing biodiversity, climate adaption, climate resilience, local-native species, community networks, volunteering - Helping to make it happen now, not kicking it down the road or putting nature last as though we aren't a part of it. Learning how to be a better human custodian of this unique Gondwanan place, respecting its people and the diversity of life that belongs here.
32	Work with Green Adelaide as Coastal Conservation Officer.
33	The walks, bike trails , eco system , trees, a beautiful council
34	Native conservation
35	I have been involved with COM for many years, currently as a volunteer at Warriparinga; but also as a resident of Holdfast Bay, make use of many facilities in Marion. My ancestors had a strong involvement in the early history of Marion (the Stack family) and have had assistance from the Marion Heritage Centre.
36	The elimination of weeds, in order to facilitate revegetation and regeneration of local provenance native vegetation corridors, thereby providing a food source for native insects, birds, reptiles, fish and animals.
37	I spending time in nature particularly bird watching and photography. I regulatly post observations on iNaturalist. I am also a volunter in several bush care groups in the local area.
38	I'm an avid walker and thoroughly enjoy walking thru areas close to my home which replicate the bush and help in some small way to balance the craziness of the building and compact homes it's surrounded by.
39	Tree management weed control park maintenance
40	Conservation and environmental education
41	I cycle to work at Flinders University and enjoy the Warriparina Wetlands/Kuarna Cultural Centre. As my family gets older I am hoping to ride along the cycle paths to the outdoor pool.
42	Conservation and restoration of native plants and wild life
43	Member of FoW & FOSRL keen to assist in helping biodiversity
44	Feral Animals
45	Landcare
46	Biodiversity, tree maintenance and revegetation
47	Senior Citizens
48	I love the fact that I have a park at the end of my street and that I can enjoy it any time I wish.
49	Wildlife Conservation, Citizen Science, Community & Neighbourhood projects, Science Communication, Environmental Education
50	I live in Holdfast Bay, two streets away. Big interest in drawing people's awareness to gazanias and other pest species. Surely we need to educate people about these. Many people use them on verges, why can't council remove them?

Respondents comments

51	I live in the City of Marion and I study, as a citizen scientist, insects and spider distribution. I mainly carry out my work at Oaklands Wetland and I my observations are included in the iNaturlist City of Marion page
52	Member of Friends of Sturt River landcare group for 3years now.
53	I am passionate about the environment and can foresee losses in biodiversity if action is not taken to protect what we still have. I also see the need and opportunity for biodiversity to increase across the City of Marion, which also has benefits to the ecological services our open spaces provide; mental health benefts, clean water, air, aesthetics, and as a moral obligation to the other species that call this place home.
54	Interested in climate resilience, biodiversity and community capacity building.
55	I volunteer with Friends of Upper Field River, and have done additional volunteering at Lower Field River and Oaklands Wetland, where I am a member of Friends of Sturt River.
56	Resident
57	Volunteer with my aunty
58	I live next to Cormorant Drive Reserve Hallett Cove and I am a member of Friends of the Lower Field River.
59	Friend of Warriparinga volunteer
60	Gardening, environment, trees, birds and insects
61	I strongly support the ongoing protection of native vegetation within the City of Marion. While legislative frameworks like the Native Vegetation Act 1991 are essential, conservation efforts should extend beyond regulated areas. Remnant vegetation provides significant ecological, economic, and cultural benefits to South Australia. Striking a balance between biodiversity preservation and responsible development in natural areas is crucial. This can be achieved through strategic planning and sustainable practices.
62	I am a resident of the City of Marion, work in the City of Marion as a Medical Practitioner and enjoy its natural environment in my spare time. I spend a lot of time doing voluntary conservation work locally.
63	Love to see native plants, wildlife and birdlife in their natural environment. We are very lucky to still have so much open space in the City of Marion which is inhabited with wildlife. Our Wetlands are beautiful and it has been enjoyable watching Glade Cres Reserve Wetlands mature over the last few years, it is our local wetlands. Hugh Johnson Boulevard Reserve duck pond is our local daily walk spot, the variety of birdlife is beginning to grow here as well. I am a volunteer with Upper Field River, we are a small group but should feel proud of the work achieved over the last few years.
64	Biodiversity and sustainability has long been a personal interest of mine. I have also studied ecology and environmental management throughout my University education.

Appendix 2

Question 7&8: If you don't support the plan please tell us why? (2 comments).

Respondents comments

1	Empty the bins, fix the footpaths / roads and mow the parks. We do not need you to do anything else. Remove all the woke uni students from the council office and employ more laborer's in the works depot. We pay you to work for us.
2	It is a meaningless plan. It is a copy of countless "plans" developed by various councils and groups over the past 40 years. The plan does not address the key issues of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, namely urban spread and high-density dwellings driven by the real estate industry. The plan does not address the control of cats, the introduction of new pest plants, and or the effective education of the public. The Marion Council demonstrated its lack of commitment to biodiversity and good environmental management by mass tree plantings of introduced trees. The Marion Council had the opportunity to create further refuge and habitat for native boirds and wildlife by planting native Australian plants .

Appendix 3

Question 12: Do you have any other comments? (49 comments).

Respondents comments

1	We need natural land with trees and plants. Do not build on hills face zoned land.
2	once again it is discriminatory (UNCRPD) & as per the State government's On Line Tool kit re access to information, to only provide formats in pdf & exclude word & easy read. I was on the Premiers Committee re pushing all web sites & documents to be accessible. Do I really need to lodge a formal complaint with the EOC re marion's reluctance to understand that not all rate payers can access pdf. Dr david Squirrell OAM
3	Residents should be educated & encouraged to grow more natives in their own yards and verges
4	Community education and nature advocacy is needed for people who have limited understanding of the issues you are addressing.
5	Council should review their allowance of multi story homes on blocks which housed one home and garden. Not enough room for gardens any more so less habitat for birds and bees which will eventually have a bad impact on our ecology.
6	Dessert ash trees are running rampant in reserves and council land and should be eradicated.
7	No
8	Link with Glenthorne NP more. eg you have contractors who do weed spraying every year in an area off Morphett Rd which many see as part of Glenthorne but NP personnel no nothing about.
9	Merge with other councils. Remove all executives, ceo,s, managers, office workers, close council chambers, fire anyone on a salary of over $60K, expand works depot.
10	Stopping urban infill will make biodiversity improvements much more sustainable
11	Remove olive trees along the rail corridor. Educate home owners to remove olive trees from their properties to prevent them from spreading.
12	Identifying the balance between development and both established and potential green space becomes more urgent as population density develops. Developers and architects have demonstrated an appalling lack of ecological understanding as densities increase. Maybe there is scope for regulatory measures to install adequate vegetation around all domestic development to address heat intake and ameliorate the disproportionally higher heat sink effect of clustered dwellings.
13	Council need to maintain the current environment before starting new initiatives. There is never any maintenance in my area such as trimming of the current trees which results in them overhanging and banging on roofs and allows wildlife such as possums to access roofs and enter the cavities which is strongly undesirable for possum and resident.
14	The Marion Council should ban trees such as pines trees in urban areas to reduce the re-introduction of seeds into reserves and adjoining National Parks. A strong cat control programme which should include registration of cats should be seriously considered.
15	The Marion Council has done a magnificent job in Trott Park and Hallett Cove. Glenthorne National Park is magnificent, a great achievement. I have lived in Trott Park since 1990. Traffic has increased substantially since the Expressway was built. I would like to see traffic converted back to Mayors Rd and Sheriffs Rd, away from residential areas. Speed limit could change on Lander Rd and trucks encouraged to use a different route which would help to maintain the roundabouts. Thank you.
16	I would like to see more being done to reserves like Mitchell Street Reserve, for example more care for the existing landscaping, support and consideration for koalas that have been seen in this Reserve and a lot more native vegetation planted out as well as installation of play equipment or areas to encourage people to spend time in the park with seats, bbq, new play spaces or the native vegetation to be significant to create areas to sit and enjoy the native vegetation and wildlife. Several years ago, Mitchell Street Reserve had all playground equipment removed being a flying fox, slide, swings and climbing structure and instead, one storage box installed which doubles as a painted cricket stump. Compared to other reserves in the area it has been disappointing to see the lack of interest and effort put into Mitchell Street Reserve. We have had positive changes with now having regular watering and some landscaping that unfortunately has not been maintained to the intended appeal. Some items on the development of the reserve have still not been completed.

Respondents comments

17	excellent plan, very well thought out with a clear strategy moving forward.
18	Please remove non native trees from waterfall creek.
19	the street trees chosen in this area are pest trees I pull at least 1 seedling out a day the birds drop the seed there as bad as olive trees!!
20	Keep up the good work you are doing in the environment that you have
21	Well done to the City of Marion for taking a step up in the biodiversity conservation. Improved natural spaces and improved opportunities for connection with nature are critical for future sustainability and wellbeing in our City.
22	Keep up the excellent work
23	General: Hugely supportive of your on-going support for biodiversity sites, increasing the scale and complexity of remnant vegetation management (fencing, weed mapping, ecological monitoring - vegetation) natural landscaping establishment sites. Clearly this is an increase in scale from your current work, and more than merits the additional staff member and on-going maintenance budget. Great to see new initiatives: Indigenous Land Management Program(!), private land conservation, building a seedbank, making biodiversity site data available to staff and community members and much improved focus on weed control (both mapping it and making this info widely available and actually helping volunteers do it.) Please focus on connectivity: would like to see stronger, overt connections between the Tree management strategy, particularly the verge planting program and the Biodiversity Plan. I trust that you regularly work together, but connectivity is everything in urban biodiversity, how do these plans connect at the practical what gets planted where level? Also the BSUD plan: what is its status and where does that fit in? It looks like some of the sites nominated by volunteers who co-authored the draft BSUD plan with City of Marion 2021-22 have been nominated as natural landscaping sites (eg Willoughby Ave, Radstock Reserve, Oliphant Ave), or Restoration sites (Maldon Ave, Appleby). Essentially the connection is BSUD, given that your investments in both the Tree Management Strategy and Biodiversity Plan are a move away from 'offsetting' (ie acceptance of wholesale biodiversity loss in urban areas because it will be offset by revegetation in less urbanised areas) and towards valuing what we have and investing in it in meaningful, measurable ways. Please release and endorse that earlier BSUD work. Specific: Warradale barracks has some of the older remnant trees in Marion now. Have you considered how to engage federal land owners under this strategy? PG13 Great to see Minchinbury Terrace corridor on your list of restoration sites. Could you also add the wide verge on The Parade to this list? Council has previously invested in biodiversity plantings there that also need maintenance, but it is not listed. P16 Linkages and corridors: Sturt River - Warripari Linear Park corridor. Great to see this acknowledged and now included in CoM business plan. Where are the four pre-approved revegetation sites identified by Friends of Sturt River Landcare in the plan (ie forthcoming sites opposite Warradale Barracks, and between Kenton and Oliphant Ave? These are delivered with CoM so should probably be listed in your Restoration sits map.
24	I do not understand why the beach pool might still go ahead ...it will ruin a beautiful unique beach and cove which is meant to be a conservation park, plus cause car park congestion
25	Yes, please stop focusing on exotic tree planting, there are too many Jacarandas and exotic which return little benefit to fauna.
26	I think it is a great initiative to develop the Biodiversity Plan, leading the pack! It will help identify priority areas for limited funding, and provide a continuity of vision for activities. Not everything can be done, but this will help identify the key areas/issues and manage the application of resources.

Respondents comments

27	The Lower Field River and Waterfall Creek deserve similar attention to what the Sturt River has received in the past. It is not good enough to just rest on your laurels. In the last 40 years, the channel of the Lower Field River has silted up and become clogged with Phragmites australis. It is now almost impossible for the native fish to enter from the sea to breed. From Cormorant Drive to the sea, the channel needs to be excavated to reinstate the large pools that once existed. With the thunder storms that will become more prevalent with climate change, and no channel to direct the water, it will spread out, eroding the banks. The works Council have completed along Waterfall Creek have helped treat Hallett Cove's storm water, and lessen the erosion along the creek within Hallett Cove Conservation Park under normal conditions. However, during the recent thunder storms, the creek banks were again undermined, causing substantial erosion. This eroded sediment blocks out sunlight in the sea, making it difficult for seagrass to survive, thereby depriving fish of their natural habitat. There is a solution, and that is to create a detention dam at the junction of Waterfall Creek and the tributary east of Capella Drive, by clearing the woody weeds that now clog these waterways, modifying the Glade Crescent dam (3) by-pass inlet and reinforcing the existing rock wall, if necessary. This wall was obviously engineered to act as a detention dam in case of a blockage in the bypass. Lucretia Way reserve is an opportunity for Council to come up with an imaginative revegetation project to enhance the biodiversity of the area. Where the dam sediment was recently stored, weeds of up to 2m tall have grown. Where trees are viable, Allocasuarina verticillata would provide a food source for cockatoos. Otherwise, native grasses and grassland plants would be appropriate after the weeds have been thoroughly eradicated.
28	There are many good initiatives in this plan. I sincerely hope that it is given full support and implemented as matter of priority.
29	I wish to bring up a some what hypocritical venture from Marion council . Directly opposite your council offices . Why are you going to cut down two big red gum. Trees in order to put up an ice rink go and have a good look in the mirror pls Marion council
30	I am excited by the potential for the community to take ownership of their local spaces, to enjoy and value their waterways. There opportunity for signage to increase access and use of open blue/green spaces. Improving the sturt river linnar path to be a biodiversity corridor has huge potential for wildlife but also the community. I am personally interested in seeing schools and groups invited to be involved in local regeneration.
31	Marion to be congratulated on this focus on biodiversity. Great to see highlighting friends groups - talking to friends of National parks they get very little support from Nat Parks, is there some way they can be supported without stepping on Nat Parks toes. An extra threat is the perceived danger of large trees dropping limbs and calls to remove them. In past there has been reluctance to culling feral animals like foxes and bees - will this change. Study ways to reduce noisy miners out competing smaller birds. Good to see hand weeding being promoted Promote/help large land owners to increase biodiversity ie plant indigenous areas around school ovals
32	There are foxes in our area which represent a threat to native reptiles and mammals. There are also large numbers of introduced birds species (i.e. sparrows, starlings and spotted doves) competing with our native species. The biodiversity plan acknowledges the presence of these animals, however does not seem to offer a control solution.
33	We need more green space and suggest the Solar CarParking Sheilds for shopping centre carparks.
34	In the situation with particular emphasis on climate change we need to care for the environment and the parks and large trees present need to be cared for properly. Doing the work to care for these areas is very important not only to our environment but to also to encourage the flora and fauna that used to live in our area to find the environment once again much more ideal for them to live in not only now but into the future
35	• Bird baths with water filling stations • Signage of no feeding animals in multiple languages • Regular bird walks/nature trails events after working hours for everyone to join • Terracotta water tray to new household to provide water for wildlife • More citizen science projects – and training • Seasonal bird monitoring reports shared with locals through newsletters • City of Marion creating local events as part of the bigger nature events -Nature City Challenge, Great Southern Bioblitz • Project Timeline of how the actions are going to be achieved on page 38 • Household – check for leaking taps once a year/subsidised free service • DIY bike maintenance at community centres with volunteers, Biannual bike events

Respondents comments

36	Marion are doing an amazing job of revegetation! Congratulations! Holdfast Bay need to promote the biodiversity program...We hear nothing!
37	I think that the City of Marion is making excellent headway from over previous years. It is wonderful to see the commitment and ongoing commitment and plans. Support of Volunteer groups, such as Friends of Sturt River Landcare is a wonderful way to involve the community and to help the environment. My photos of spiders in the plans look really good. Thank you!!
38	On the whole the plan appears to be well balanced and allows for improved resources and sustainable growth in providing much needed native biodiversity that reduces greenhouse effects and creates a better environment for living.
39	City of Marion has an incredible opportunity to further develop it's open spaces to benefit the people here now, but also future generations. We have seen drastic biodiversity loss since colonisation, and significant funding and effort is required to slow that loss down, and ideally reverse damage that has been done. This is also an excellent opportunity to be one of the first councils in South Australia to develop an Aboriginal Land Management program.
40	fantastic to have such a big increase in resources to improve biodiversity in City of Marion over the next few years.
41	I'm sorry, I only had time to skim the plan, and not enough time to absorb the details. I'm happy that Marion has such a good plan, but I did not see reference to the Friends of Upper Field River site adjacent to Barton Rd. Reserve in Trott Park, and believe it deserves specific mention and planning. Thanks!
42	Yes. What's been done at Oaklands is great. Can we have more of that along the river and other places. More nature and less playgrounds please.
43	Keep going please. Not enough happening to stop extinctions from climate change. It all helps. Please tell people to stop using so much poison in their gardens.
44	There is a strong focus on indigenous native plants/trees in the draft report. Some non-native tree species do provide important habitat for native fauna, so this will need to be considered before removal. An example is where native birds are using mature non-native trees for nesting and roosting. If these trees are removed the native birds need to leave the area to look for new nesting sites, ultimately resulting in a reduction of biodiversity in the area.
45	C o M has significantly increased support for "Friends " groups and it is much appreciated
46	See email to Jacob Lemon
47	The plan demonstrates a well-considered approach with clear focus areas. Full resourcing would be critical to ensure successful implementation and achievement of the desired community outcomes. The emphasis on remnant native vegetation, restoration, and natural landscaping creates a well-rounded strategy for achieving the plan's objectives.

Respondents comments

48	As a volunteer in Hallett Cove Conservation Park, I am concerned about the ongoing severe erosion in the park caused by the unnatural waterflows which result from poor urban planning in the upper reaches of Waterfall Creek. The intermittent high flow has eroded a dangerous chasm more than 5 metres deep in places resulting in the death of numerous mature trees and shrubs as well as creating a safety hazard. Recent works on the Lecretia Way dam have helped reduce the number of high flow events as well as providing a return of constant low flow for riparian plants and fauna. However, there are still some high flow events, and the damage continues. The council must enlarge and re-engineer the dams that exist in the upper catchment in a similar way to the Lecretia Way Dam so that the unnatural high flow events from the paved urban landscape do not continue to cause damage. Works on the Lecretia Way dam have increased the growth of weeds in the reserve around and north of the dam which is adjacent to the conservation park causing a weed invasion threat for the conservation park. Council should give priority to revegetating the area with local providence indigenous species to stop further weed invasion. I am concerned that the Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029 does not have the level of detail and commitment that was in the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023, particularly relating to the management principles and specific actions to be undertaken. In relation to principles, unlike the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023: There was no mention of 'No net species loss... through weed control, removal of threats and propagation and revegetation.' There was no mention that 'Local provenance material should be used...' There was no statement that 'council owned land with biodiversity should not be disposed of...' There was no mention of 'micro-siting of trails and boardwalks and appropriate management during construction.' There was no inclusion of the previously stated 'Weedy Species Principles' In particular there was no commitment to 'not use or promote any species of plant that has weedy potential...', no commitment to 'actively manage pest plants' or to 'use local indigenous species [in revegetation]... of local provenance to preserve genetic diversity.' In relation to actions, unlike the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023, there was no commitment this time to: 'Increase planting of indigenous trees and shrubs on streetscapes...' 'Develop and implement action plans for sites that address the key threats such as weeds...' 'Create maps of no-mow zones for City of Marion field staff' '[That] landholders should be encouraged to protect any existing remnant vegetation.' '[That] streetscape design guides should provide a palette of indigenous plants for verges and streetscapes' 'Undertake revegetation in buffer areas around existing remnant vegetation' 'Investigate stormwater management in areas where it impacts Remnant Native Vegetation.' 'Undertake weed control and restoration of riparian habitat in watercourses...' 'Ensure any tracks and trails placed in remnant vegetation areas are minimal in impact'

Respondents comments

48	I am also concerned about statements on: Page 22 - that 'bird surveys can help evaluate the value of woody weeds...' Response - Woody weeds are prolific in the City of Marion and are displacing indigenous vegetation as they spread into conservation parks and other areas of remnant vegetation. There are no native birds that cannot obtain their food and habitat from indigenous species. Where birds do sometimes feed on weeds [usually feral bird species] then they spread the seed in their droppings to vulnerable areas of remnant vegetation. Indigenous species also support the needs of indigenous invertebrates, lizards etc, whereas weed species do not provide the flowers etc that indigenous fauna have come to require through coevolution. Page 22 - that 'It is fundamental to conduct weed removal only when it benefits native species.' Response - It is always beneficial to indigenous and remnant vegetation to reduce the burden of the weed invasion of the City of Marion. However, it is critical that weed control only be conducted by workers that are certified to be able to identify indigenous species, particularly the very rare plant species that we have along the coast. Weed control activities such as spraying should not be conducted near remnant vegetation except with exceptional care and supervision. Page 24 - that 'The return to cultural burning to city of Marion sites would be an important step...' Response - Burning must not be conducted in areas of remnant vegetation unless based of sound scientific evaluation of the potential effects on all species in the site where it is proposed. Low quality pseudo-science is not adequate justification for such a risk endeavour. The remaining areas of remnant vegetation are in no way like the environment that existed here hundreds of years ago. They are now very small areas which are fragmented and not connected and are surrounded by weeds which rapidly invade after fire. There are no surrounding areas of intact environment from which fire intolerant plant and reptile species can re-establish after burning. Ill-conceived burning may cause extinction of our locally endangered species. Please review and upgrade this very important document.

Respondents comments

49	The Draft Plan had some very good areas and considerations for how to address biodiversity, but was severely lacking in a majority of areas. I was not pleased to read that the Council is planning to use genetically adapted species (due to concerns around climate change) rather than emphasising the use of endemic species. I also felt the section on Water Sensitive Design was severely lacking. Yes, the Council has two good examples of this (Oaklands and Warriparinga) but has failed to consider the impact of urban design of private developments on water management. Furthermore, the Plan also did not consider the small streams that have been built on/filled in, and how this degradation of our environment impacts on water management, especially as regards flooding of local infrastructure e.g. water run-off from the Seacliff Village development flooding Scholefield Road and Newland Avenue. The waterways within the Council Area were not included on any of the maps, which I feel is a serious oversight. The Plan also mentions wildlife species by name, but seems to fail in considerations regarding the requirements of these species. For example, large bird species such as yellow-tailed black cockatoos require multiple large trees for feeding and nesting (sometimes these are different tree species). Yet large trees seem to be commonly cut down within the Council Area. I feel that it is important to link other Council initiatives with the Biodiversity Plan e.g. council restrictions on cat ownership, tree asset management plan. The Plan also seemed to fail to consider the potential of roadside revegetation as regards connectivity of remnant vegetation and the other flow-on benefits for wildlife, and also in terms of urban heat and water runoff. I was disappointed that the Plan did not include specific mention of urban design methods of green walls and green roofs – an underutilised resource in the urban environment. I was pleased to see the inclusion of Aboriginal Land Development, Private Land Conservation and Landscaping Sites, but felt that details on these areas were lacking.