

# WERRIBEE PLAINS

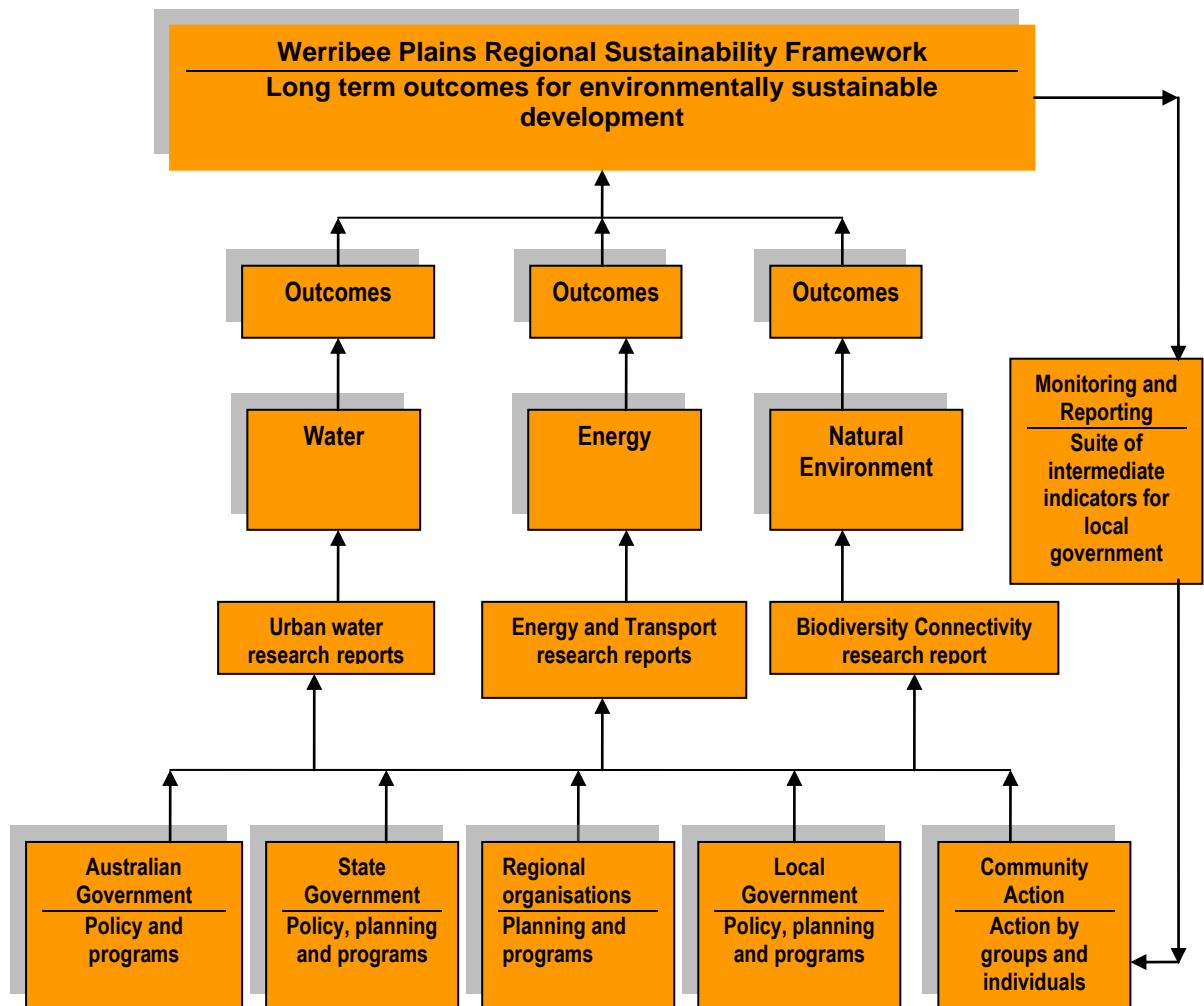
## REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

### The Framework

The Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework is designed to provide a clear focus on three key aspirational environmental sustainability outcomes:

- Water - How far can we reduce the demand for reticulated drinking?
- Energy – To what extent can we achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and to what extent can we substantially reduce car dependency?, and
- Natural Environment – How can we drive investment in the region’s biodiversity to ensure resilience of natural assets and systems to climate change and fragmentation by urbanisation?

The organisational structure of the Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework (illustrated below) is designed to promote and facilitate decision making that incorporates these environmental aspirations into business planning and implementation at a regional level.

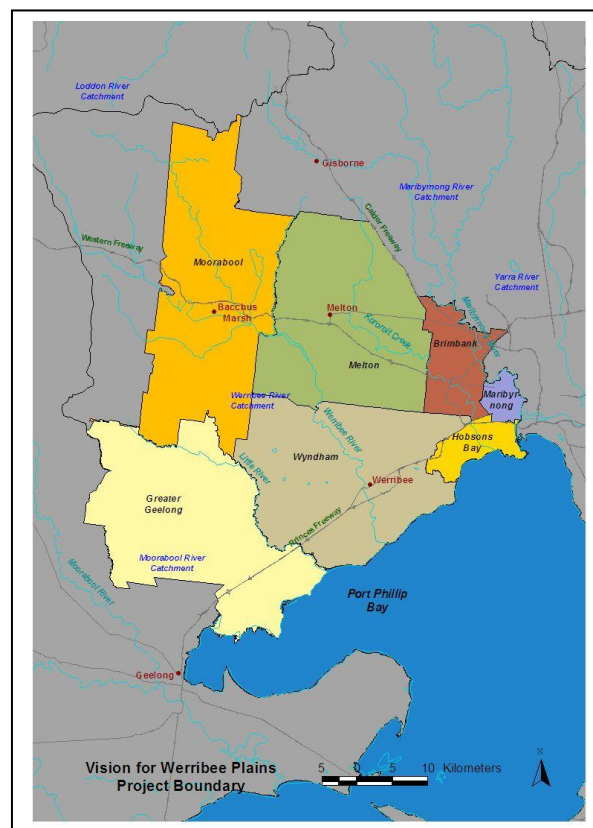


This Framework is designed to address for each of the areas of water, energy and natural environment:

- An understanding with stakeholders of the issues;
- Quantification of the issues to the extent possible on the basis of existing evidence;
- Identification of priorities;
- Formulation of targets;
- Development of potential solutions;
- Discussion of barriers;
- Formulation of proposed actions; and
- Identification of indicators for monitoring and reporting and reviewing progress.

## The Region

The Werribee Plains Framework encompasses the following municipalities of the City of Brimbank, City of Greater Geelong (part), City of Hobsons Bay, City of Maribyrnong, Shire of Melton, Shire of Moorabool (part) and City of Wyndham. The City of Moonee Valley is also involved as a member council of the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA).



## Vision for Werribee Plains

In August 2002, the Victorian Government announced its vision for the Werribee Plains as creating a major green region that is internationally renown for its:

- Sustainable agricultural development and high value outputs from agricultural land
- Sustainable industrial and urban development
- **Sustainable management of the region's natural resources, including water, energy and ecosystems**
- High level innovation and the use of advanced technologies
- A strong and vibrant community culture built on sustainability

One of the key initiatives in the Vision was for a Regional Sustainability Framework to be developed and implemented.

The project comprised an initial scoping study to identify the issues that key stakeholders said were of the most importance and the resulting themes selected for in-depth study were – water, energy, transport (reducing car dependency), and biodiversity

Separate consultancies were conducted on each of these themes and a list of recommendations generated for making each more sustainable. It should be noted that the focus of the studies and recommendations was on actions that could be implemented at a regional level.

A series of measures and indicators have been identified in the RSF and it is these that are to be implemented at a regional level, initially with the support of local government in the region and under the aegis of LeadWest.

Comprehensive information on the preparation of the Framework can be obtained by going to the ACF website at [www.acfonline.org.au](http://www.acfonline.org.au) Home > Campaigns > Sustainable Cities > Werribee Plains Project.

A copy of the Framework and following reports as detailed below on water, energy (including transport study) and biodiversity are also provided on this website.

#### Water

- Werribee Plains: Urban Water - Reducing potable water use (2010)

#### Energy

- Werribee Plains: Energy Research Study - Towards Zero Net Emissions (2010)
- Werribee Plains: Reducing Car Dependency -Transport and Urban Design Solutions (2010)

#### Natural Environment (Biodiversity)

- Werribee Plains: Biodiversity Connectivity - Resilience of natural assets and systems to climate change and fragmentation by urbanisation (2010)

### **Implementation**

At the end of March 2010 the ACF completed the 3 year project for the development of the Werribee Plains Regional Sustainability Framework.

The vision for the implementation is to lead strategic partnerships to facilitate real improvements in environmental sustainability in Melbourne's west. The accompanying mission is to develop partnerships to support, canvas and represent member agencies and the community in enhancing and strengthening the achievement of environmental sustainability outcomes through collaborative regional projects.

In support of the initial implementation of the Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework, the Department of Sustainability and Environment has funded an Executive Officer to manage, coordinate and facilitate:

- Development of on-going networks to implement the Framework on a self-funded basis across the Werribee plains
- Refinement of the measures and targets and reporting format that meets the needs of local governments and related stakeholders across the region
- Development and implementation of a business plan in association with local governments and related stakeholders in the Werribee Plains to provide on-going management and local reporting of progress against the Framework
- Development and implementation of a risk management plan to protect the integrity and continuity of the RESF and its implementation across the Werribee Plains
- Seeking of sponsorship and sources of revenue to replace the DSE-Vision for Werribee Plains funding at the end of Year 1.

- Publishing of the first annual report of the Framework in a format consistent with the needs of local government across the region, and the contribution of the respective Councils to improving sustainability

The details for the implementation can be obtained from the Business Plan ([need live link to document](#))

### **Contact for further information**

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