

# BEYOND THE FAIRWAYS

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2022



MOUNT LAWLEY  
GOLF CLUB



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**MOUNT LAWLEY GOLF CLUB**

Winner of the *Western Australian Golf Industry*  
Environmental Award 2020 | 2021

# INTRODUCTION

Mount Lawley Golf Club acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

*As current custodians of this land, we accept ownership and responsibility for its care and maintenance.*

Mount Lawley Golf Club (MLGC) is an 18-hole championship golf course situated in the suburb of Inglewood Western Australia.

MLGC is gazetted as an A-class nature reserve vested for recreation with significant mixed floristic communities including endangered Banksia woodland, Melaleuca woodland, and large pockets of landscaped golf course fringed with various species of introduced parkland trees.

The site is a valuable inner suburban greenspace that provides a large quantity of tree canopy and remnant biodiversity within the City of Stirling (COS).

**MLGC aims to create long-term sustainable outcomes for the Club and the greater community by restoring urban biodiversity whilst also providing a sustainable and highly regarded golf course for generations to come.**

Beyond the Fairways (BTF) Sustainability Strategy summarises MLGC's vision to achieve long-term sustainable outcomes through our management of the golf course and associated land. The strategy is divided into seven strategic priority areas, each of which is described further in the following pages.



Christmas Family Sundowner



# OUR VISION

Restore, protect and enhance local conservation and biodiversity values whilst also providing a sustainable and highly regarded golf course.

MLGC is prioritising several key objectives.

- Restore local conservation and biodiversity values whilst also providing a sustainable and highly regarded golf course.
- Restoration of Banksia woodlands, a threatened ecological community (TEC) listed as endangered.
- Restoration of Melaleuca woodlands.
- Protect and preserve areas of high-quality remnant vegetation.
- Rehabilitate key degraded areas through endemic vegetation plantings.
- Align strategies to the City of Stirling's Urban Forest Plan and Local Biodiversity Strategy.



## Banksia Woodland

The biodiverse Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP) are a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) that are internationally recognised as an Australian biodiversity hotspot. Once considered extensive, Banksia woodlands are now highly fragmented with approximately only one-third of their original extent remaining within 50 kilometres of the Perth Central Business District.

**(Banksia Woodlands: A restoration guide for the Swan Coastal Plain. 2016)**

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## RECREATION

*Maintain a high quality and well-regarded golf course*

## CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION

*Maintain and build strong relationships with key stakeholders*

## FLORA AND FAUNA

*Undertake a restructuring of bushland vegetation to protect and restore endemic bushland conservation and biodiversity values*

## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION

*Help mitigate climate change and build resilience for the Club and land we manage*

## CANOPY

*Increase overall tree canopy commensurate with the City of Stirling Urban Forest Plan*

## WATER

*Ensure sustainable and efficient water management programs*

## SAFETY

*Maintain a safe golf course environment*



MLGC Junior Girls Pennant Team





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## RECREATION

*Maintain a high quality and well-regarded golf course*

- Sustainable golf course management.
- Optimise members and guests golfing experience.
- Architectural restoration of the golf course.
- Enhancing the A Class Nature Reserve.
- Provide opportunities for junior and adult sport development.



## CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION

*Maintain and build strong relationships with key stakeholders*

Including but not limited to:

- Members
- City of Stirling
- Relevant State Government Agencies
- Friends of Inglewood Triangle
- Urban Bushland Council
- Perth Natural Resources Management (NRM)
- Local Community



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## FLORA AND FAUNA



**Banksia woodlands are currently declared endangered under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**

*Undertake a restructuring of bushland vegetation to restore endemic bushland conservation and biodiversity values*

- Protection of remnant endemic vegetation.
- Restoration of Banksia woodlands, a TEC listed as endangered.
- Restoration of Melaleuca woodlands.
- Creating ecological corridors to link remnant bushland and reduce fragmentation.
- Strategic removal of non endemic trees to reduce risk of impacting flora and fauna.
- Reduction in synthetic chemicals and implement environmentally friendly products where possible.
- Implement habitat enhancement for the protection of native fauna. Examples – Construction of Quenda bungalows, nesting boxes for birdlife and actions to protect Rainbow Bee Eater nests.
- Plant and establish pollinator plots.

### **Why are endemic species so important?**

Endemic species are those that naturally occur in a given area. Introducing Australian natives to a different area can cause similar environmental impacts to introducing exotic species. Rainbow Lorikeets in Western Australia are a good example, they are much loved Australian natives but can cause significant impacts on endemic species. Similarly native, but non-endemic, Australian trees also cause detrimental impacts when they invade Swan Coastal Plain bushland areas. The ecology of our local bushland is complex and has evolved over many millennia. Endemic species rely on other endemic species for their ongoing wellbeing through a network of interrelationships linked to our local biodiversity. This is why conservation and rehabilitation efforts value endemic species so highly.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION

*Help mitigate climate change and build resilience for the Club and land we manage*

- Maintain a high percentage of renewable energy in MLGC daily usage.
- Evaluate potential energy storage options as capital costs reduce.
- Increase energy efficiency wherever practical to do so.
- Maintain a focus on improved water use efficiency.
- Vegetation management to recognise future climate pressures.
- Increase climate change awareness among members.
- Look for practical ways to offset MLGC carbon footprint.





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

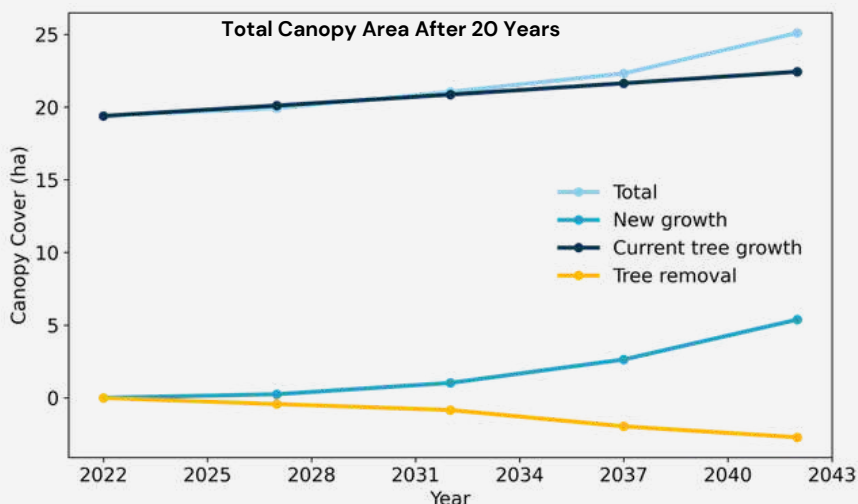
## CANOPY

*Increase overall tree canopy and align with the City of Stirling Urban Forest Plan*

- Restoration of remnant bushland areas through integrated weed management and additional planting.
- Restructuring of bushland areas on the golf course with strategic planting of endemic to site species.
- ArborCarbon tree canopy modelling to demonstrate net gain in support of City of Stirling's Urban Forest Plan (See table and graph below) .
- Retaining mature non-endemic trees where possible – not impacting endemic flora and sports turf in parkland areas.

|                   | 2022  | 2027  | 2032  | 2037   | 2042   |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Canopy (ha)       | 19.39 | 19.93 | 21.05 | 22.32  | 25.10  |
| Canopy (%)        | 26.28 | 27.01 | 28.53 | 30.25  | 34.02  |
| Canopy change (%) | 0%    | +2.7% | +8.5% | +15.1% | +29.4% |

Accounting for removal of trees, planting of additional trees and the growth of current and additional trees, the total canopy area and total growth over the 20-year period has been calculated. The numbers in the table and graph (above and right) summarise total canopy area at each interval, taking into consideration overlap between current and additional trees.



| Year            | Endemic Plantings                            |
|-----------------|--|
| 2019- 2020      | 2,350 trees, 1,850 shrubs and groundcovers   |
| 2021            | 615 trees, 1,677 shrubs and 551 groundcovers |
| 2022            | 194 trees, 1,454 shrubs and 789 groundcovers |
| Four-year Total | 3,159 trees, 6,321 shrubs and groundcovers   |

The table above lists the number of endemic plantings undertaken at MLGC between 2019 and 2022



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## WATER

### *Sustainable and efficient water management programs*

- Maintain compliance with State Water Licence.
- Achieve ongoing improvements in water use efficiency and continue irrigation audits.
- Continue participation in the Department of Water Waterwise Golf Course Program.
- Stay up to date with appropriate water reticulation technologies.
- Prepare for and adapt to water use impacts of climate change.



Many native Australian trees that are not endemic to the Swan Coastal Plain naturally evolved to thrive in areas where water is more abundant. Therefore they are much higher water users than our endemic species (e.g. Banksias). River Red Gums (*E. Camaldulensis*) which are commonly found at MLGC due to historical plantings, are high water users well suited to floodplain areas and have deep sinker roots displaying extremely high rates of hydraulic conductivity (Heinrich, P. (1990)). **Their high water usage and tendency to invade can cause significant problems in our local environment.**



Large fallen non endemic eucalypt tree limb adjacent to walkway

## SAFETY

### *Maintain a safe golf course environment*

- Implementation of an Environmental Health and Safety system (ePar).
- In 2020, MLGC engaged ArborCarbon to conduct an Arborcultural Survey and Risk Assessment to identify hazardous trees, rogue species and sensitive vegetation.
- MLGC has addressed the high risk trees identified in the risk assessment report.





# FURTHER READING

City of Stirling (2019) | Urban Forest Plan

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/recreation/parks-and-reserves/pages/urban-forest-strategy>

City of Stirling (2010) | Local biodiversity strategy: establishing biodiversity as a core community value

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/documents-and-publications/waste-and-environment/local-biodiversity-strategy>

City of Stirling (2021) | Sustainable Energy Action Plan (Corporate) 2020 – 2030

[https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/documents-and-publications/waste-and-environment/sustainable-energy-action-plan-\(1\)](https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/documents-and-publications/waste-and-environment/sustainable-energy-action-plan-(1))

Commonwealth of Australia (2016) | Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain: a nationally protected ecological community

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/banksia-woodlands-swan-coastal-plain-guide>

The Australian Golf Industry Council (2020) | Golf Benefits to the Environment

[https://www.agcsa.com.au/public/49/files/Golf\\_Benefits\\_to\\_the\\_Environment\\_2020\\_Final\\_AGIC.pdf](https://www.agcsa.com.au/public/49/files/Golf_Benefits_to_the_Environment_2020_Final_AGIC.pdf)

Department of Education (2013) | Potential Hazard Trees

[https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tailedpapers.nsf/displaypaper/4010963cf874edce321bd421482581ee00047bd9/\\$file/tp-963.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tailedpapers.nsf/displaypaper/4010963cf874edce321bd421482581ee00047bd9/$file/tp-963.pdf)

Golf Course 2030 Australia (2022)

<https://assets.pga.org.au/pga-aus/2022/06/GC-2030-Australia-FINAL-1.pdf>



**Environmental  
Golf Solutions**  
AUSTRALIA

“Environmental Golf Solutions is the leading Environmental consulting company in the Australian golf industry, engaged to assist many highly ranked clubs. EGS has been operating for over 15 years and has seen an increase in management for out-of-play areas on golf courses to increase and protect biodiversity. Mount Lawley Golf Club is among the leading clubs to promote, protect and rehabilitate endemic vegetation.

Royal Melbourne Golf Club, Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club and Glenelg Golf Club are the leading clubs committing to protecting and enhancing their out-of-play areas, increasing species diversity, providing critical habitat and promoting the excellent value golf courses can offer the local community. The past and future works that Mount Lawley Golf Club are planning align closely with these leading clubs and Golf Course 2030 (a sustainability road map released by Golf Australia), putting them well ahead within the industry.”

**Kate Torgesen** | Owner/Senior Consultant





# MLGC Strategic Plan | 2021 - 2024



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