

Environmental Management Framework



CITY OF
TEA TREE GULLY
Naturally Better

Introduction

Citizens of the City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG) benefit from a clean and healthy natural environment. The vision for the City of Tea Tree Gully—*a thriving community with a quality lifestyle that values its people and natural environment*—encapsulates what we value and enjoy about our inheritance of open space, tree-lined streets, remnant natural watercourses and biodiverse habitats.

Council understands how important a healthy natural environment is for a quality lifestyle and understands its role as a custodian of the environment for residents and visitors to the City. Our Strategic Plan 2030 describes our strategic objective and our aspirations for environmental management. This document outlines the framework through which we will plan and deliver programs and projects to meet these aspirations.

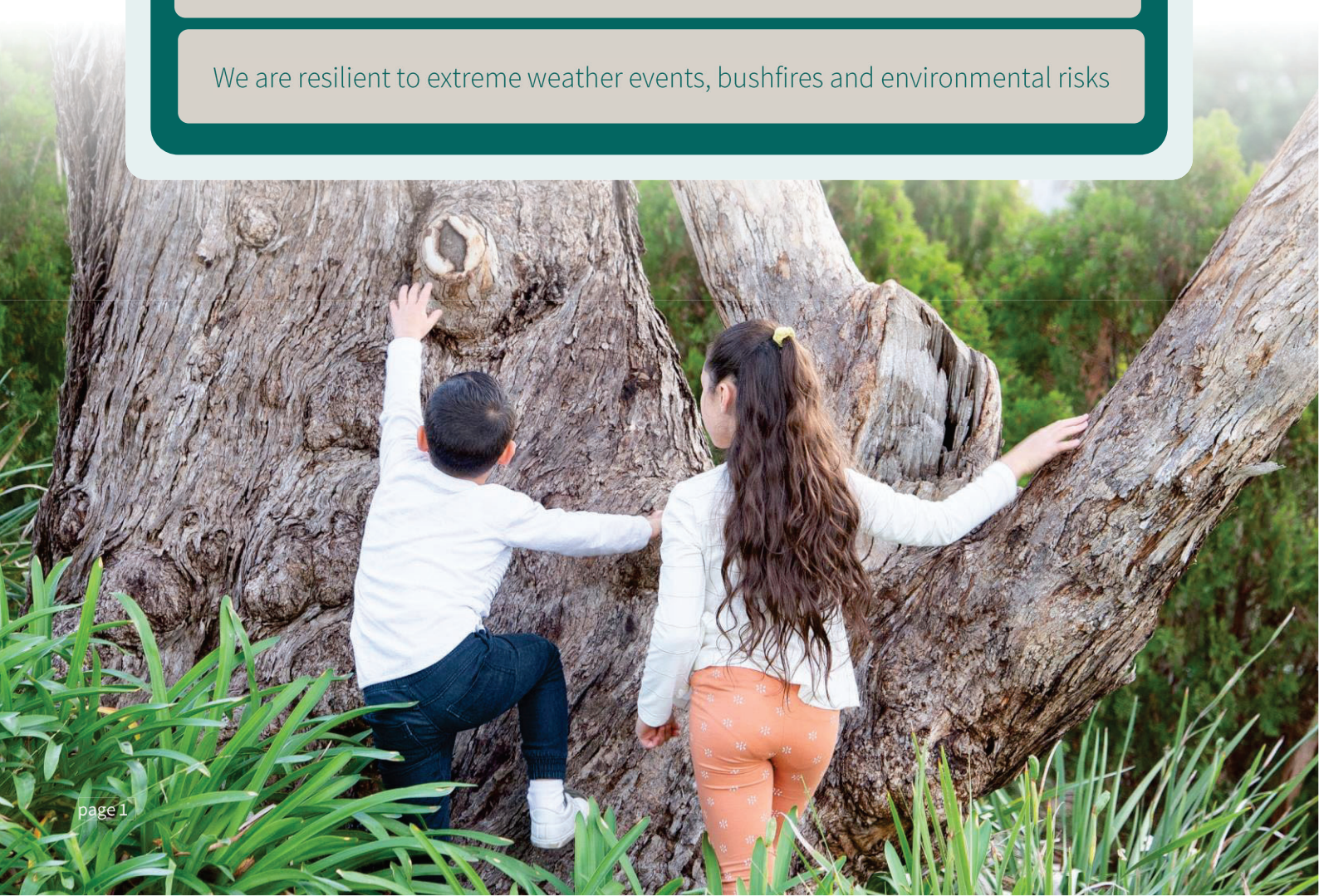
“A thriving community with a quality lifestyle that values its people and natural environment”

We are leaders in how we manage and care for our environment and resources

Biodiversity, green spaces and tree canopy are valued, enhanced and protected

We practice the responsible and sustainable use of natural resources

We are resilient to extreme weather events, bushfires and environmental risks



Why Tea Tree Gully is Naturally Better...

1

million
trees

250 km

of
watercourses
including

1,350

hectares of protected area in
1 conservation park
2 recreation parks
2 reservoir reserves

75%

diversion of
Council waste
from landfill by
2033

12 km

of Adelaide's
iconic River
Torrens

22%

canopy cover
(and increasing)

5,000+

energy efficient
LED public
lights installed

150

hectares of
wetlands and
waterbodies

600+

parks and
reserves

35%

green space
(and increasing)

15%

reduction in
Council waste
generation by
2033

65%

renewable electricity
used by Council from
2025

100+ ML

of water
recycled
annually

home to **40** threatened
and **14** migratory
EPBC Act listed species

39

hectares
revegetated
since 2000

30%

increase in Council
use of recyclable
material by 2033

320 MWh

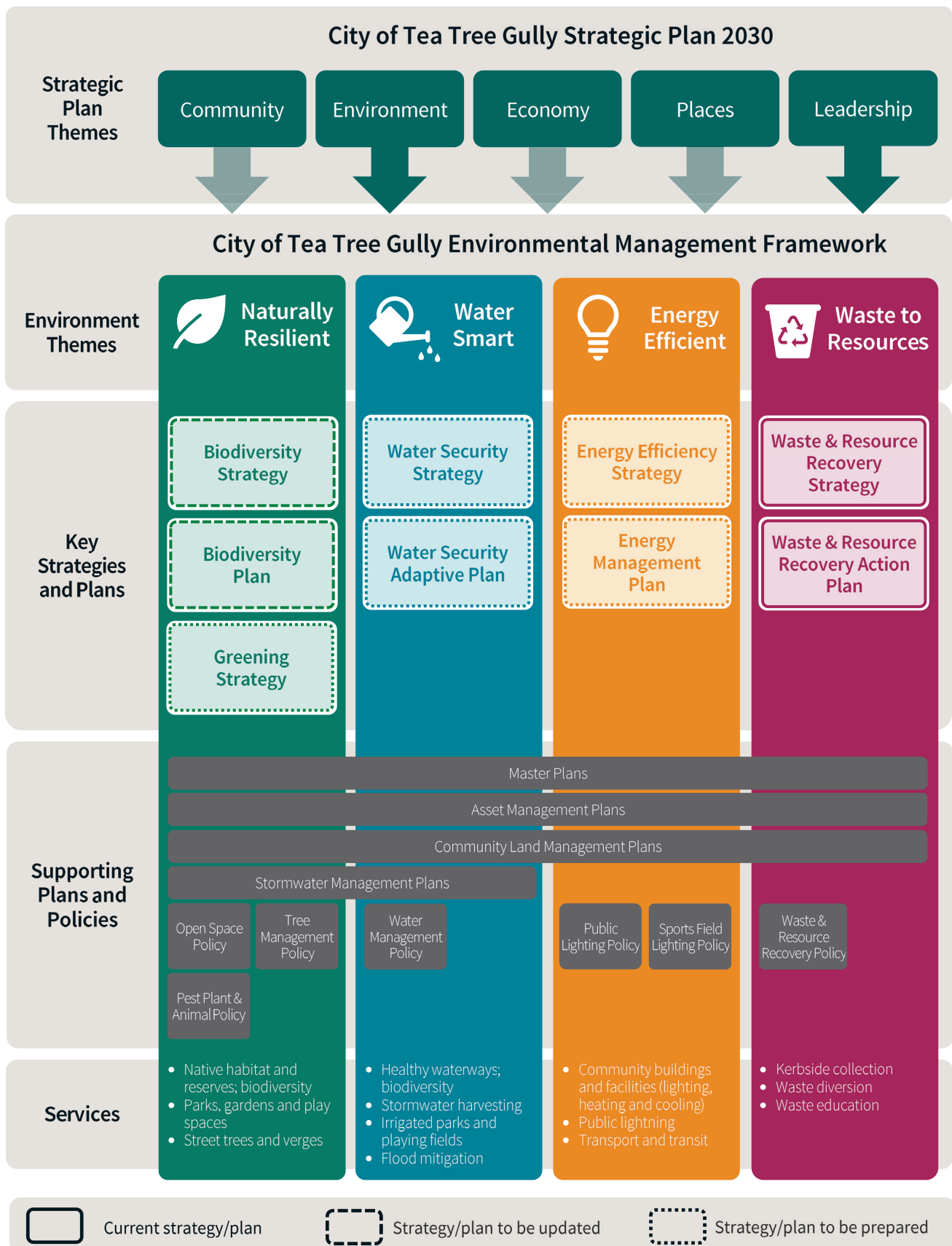
of electricity
self-generated
each year

40%

reduction in
potable water
use since 2000

Our Environmental Management Framework

Our framework guides our plans and priorities for environmental programs, projects and services across four themes.





Our Roles



Leader

We lead by example, incorporating sustainability into our policies and practices.



Custodian

We care for natural resources to benefit current and future generations.



Provider

We manage the natural and built environments together to deliver high quality community facilities and services.



Partner

We work constructively with the community, other organisations and other levels of government where there is shared responsibility.



Advocate

We engage other organisations and levels of government to influence decisions that impact our environment and our community.



Regulator

We fulfil environmental responsibilities under state and federal legislation.

Our Shared Challenges

South Australia faces some significant challenges but we will be well-equipped to meet these by working together and planning now to make our environment, economy and social settings more resilient.

Urban Growth



It is predicted that almost 2 million South Australians will be living in urban areas by 2041. The population of the City of Tea Tree Gully is expected to grow to 114,000 over the same period.

Urban growth and infill are needed to meet housing demand, but must be managed carefully to avoid making hotter cities and suburbs and to ensure that people have equitable access to high quality open space.

Climate Adaptation



Predictions for South Australia include warmer average air temperatures, less rainfall and more intense storms.

Natural Hazards



Natural hazards like bushfires, floods, storms and heatwaves cost the South Australian community more than \$100 million each year.

Community Expectations



Communities want a say in decisions that affect them and are concerned about our environment and natural hazards.

Rising Costs



The costs of energy, transport, construction materials, waste management and insurance have increased faster than inflation.

Our Local Challenges

As well as the challenges that we all share as South Australian we need to be vigilant to local issues that threaten what we value most about our city and the quality of life that we enjoy.

Preserving our Green City



Tea Tree Gully is known for its plentiful and treed open spaces, but a changing climate and development pressure could threaten the 'green' character of our city.

Recovering Local Biodiversity



Our city is home to native species and ecological communities that are valuable and important to local biodiversity.

Restoring Creek Corridors



Increasing stormwater runoff from development, water pollution and erosion are key threats to our waterways and the riparian corridors that they support.

Drought Proofing the City



Secure and affordable supplies of non-potable water are critical for quality irrigated parks, reserves and sports fields.

Our Principles

Governance and Accountability



Our Council and Executive are accountable for ensuring that governance structures and resources are in place to achieve the aspirations for the environment outlined in the Strategic Plan 2030, City Master Plan and other relevant plans and strategies.

Informed Decisions



We use data and information to make evidence-based decisions.

We make decisions based on objective assessment and comparison of risks and opportunities.

We make decisions with an understanding of the long-term costs and benefits of alternative options.

Connectedness



We consider the social, environmental and economic implications of decisions in an integrated way.

Equity



We make decisions for the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.



Naturally Resilient CTTG

What have we done?



- We have established Tea Tree Gully as a Tree City of the World.
- We have developed a Biodiversity Plan for the Dry Creek corridor.
- We have worked with Green Adelaide and metropolitan councils to comprehensively map urban canopy cover.

What are we doing?



- We are planting up to 15,000 new native plants in reserves and up to 2,000 new trees on street verges each year.
- We hold regular community planting days.
- We are managing the impact of pest plants and animals on our biodiversity.
- We are capturing tree assets in the Forestreet system.

What do we need to do?



- We will develop an urban greening strategy.
- We will update our biodiversity strategy and biodiversity plan.
- We will commence regular 'state of the environment' reporting so that we are informed of emerging environmental risks and issues.

Indicators



- City-wide tree canopy cover
- Area of revegetated native habitat
- Pest plant and animal populations



Water Smart CTTG

What have we done?



- We have reduced reliance on mains water by 50% since 2000.
- We have secured a commitment to transition residents from community wastewater management systems (CWMS) to SA Water sewers.

What do we need to do?



- We will develop a water security strategy for the city.
- We will develop a business case for enhancing our non-potable water system.
- We will undertake regular condition assessments in our natural watercourse corridors.
- We will implement the works and measures identified in stormwater management plans.

What are we doing?



- We are developing a water balance model for the city so that we can plan for future supply and demand scenarios.
- We are preparing stormwater management plans for catchments across the city.
- We are investing in new technology for irrigation control.

Indicators



- Mains water use as a proportion of total water use.
- Number of flood-impacted properties.
- Average watercourse condition rating.



Energy Efficient CTTG

What have we done?



- We have installed 250 kW of solar generation on council buildings.
- We have upgraded 5,600 path and street lights with energy efficient LED fixtures.

What do we need to do?



- We will develop an energy efficiency strategy and energy management plan for the city.
- We will enter into new purchase agreements for gas and electricity for the city that prioritise renewable sources.
- We will use building management systems to better understand energy use and opportunities for efficiency.
- We will streamline energy billing and use reporting.

What are we doing?



- We are proactively upgrading public lighting with energy efficient LED lighting.
- We are investing in electric vehicle fleet where this is practical and economic.
- We are facilitating the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the city.
- We support the volunteer Tea Tree Gully Sustainability Group to assist residents with their energy needs.

Indicators



- Total electricity self-generated each year.
- Proportion of public lighting fixtures using LED technology.
- Proportion of electricity demand met by renewable sources.
- Number of fleet electric vehicles.
- Number of building energy audits completed (less than 10 years old).



Waste to Resources CTTG



What have we done?

- We have developed the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2033 and the Waste and Resource Recovery Action Plan.



What do we need to do?

- We will enter into a new waste operations contract.
- We will embrace new and innovative technology for waste minimisation, waste collection and resource recovery.
- We will provide our community with information about their consumption and disposal choices.

Indicators



- Total waste generation per capita.
- Total council waste generation from operations.
- Diversion of household waste from landfill.

What are we doing?

- We are implementing the Waste and Resource Recovery Action Plan.
- We are engaging residents, business and schools in our community to encourage best practice waste management.
- We share knowledge across our waste collection and processing partners and customers to foster innovation and improvement.
- We are expanding the range of service to residents for hazardous and 'hard to recycle' items such as mattresses, batteries and e-waste.
- We offer households additional green organics and recycling bins to encourage diversion of waste from landfill.
- We offer residents EnviroCare green waste drop off services.

