

Blackwood Basin Landcare Network

Strategy

2017 - 2021



Blackwood Basin Group



Contents

About this Strategy.....	2
The Blackwood Basin Landcare Network	2
Our Vision for the Blackwood Basin	3
Our Strategy	4
Our Vision.....	4
Our Mission	4
Our Values and Principles.....	4
Our Environmental Goals	4
Our Organisational Goals	4
Our Signs of Success.....	5
How we will Implement our Strategy.....	6
Contact	6

About this Strategy

This document presents the unified strategic direction of the Blackwood Basin Group for the next 5 years.

By describing our long term vision and mission, it will inspire and motivate us as we support communities to manage the Blackwood Basin's natural resources for a sustainable and resilient future.

By expressing our values and principles, it will help us protect our unique culture, and maintain our high levels of professionalism as we endeavor to achieve our strategic goals.

By detailing our strategic goals, it will align and focus us on what is important to accomplish over the coming five years. It will help us make good decisions for the future of the Blackwood Basin and the communities we serve.

Thank you to those who helped create this Strategy, which was crafted by many bright and passionate minds. We thank the members of the Blackwood Basin Group Committee, and the staff and committee members of Katanning, Wagin-Woodanilling, Lower Blackwood, Bridgetown, West Arthur, and Kojonup Landcare. We also thank all those community and industry representatives who gave up their valuable time to attend and contribute to our various strategy-making workshops throughout 2016.



The Blackwood Basin Landcare Network

Our unified approach to landcare across the entire catchment is very important to the health of the Blackwood Basin, because in the natural environment, everything is connected. What we do at the headwaters of the Basin affects the health of the environment at the estuary 400kms away. For this reason, we have a unified vision for the entire Blackwood Basin.

Our Vision for the Blackwood Basin

The Blackwood River is our symbol: it runs through our landscape and connects every living system. When the river, its tributaries and all waterways in our Basin are in the best of health, every other living system in our Basin will be connected and healthy.

Healthy and Connected

We envision a future where the riparian zones along the Blackwood River and all its tributaries have been restored. On every farm and every piece of crown land where the clean water runs, we see healthy native vegetation, connected bush landscapes, and viable populations of native animals. We hear the sounds of a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Protected and Productive for the Long Term

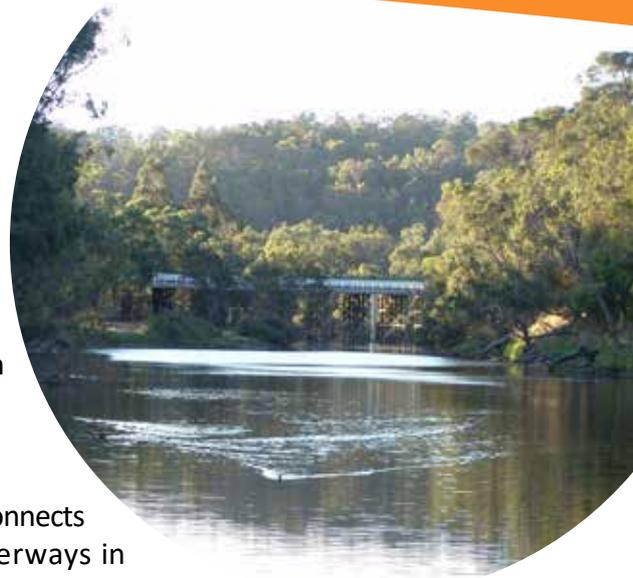
We envision our land as being productive for the long term, with landholders who understand the importance of protecting its health for the generations who are to come.

Preserved and Sustained

We envision the Blackwood River and Basin as a world-recognised, preserved public environmental asset: one that is sustained year in and year out.

Valued for Generations

We envision a natural environment that is valued and cared for by the human communities that live within and depend upon it. We see thriving towns and communities, with people working together to care for the land, water, flora and fauna. We see generation after generation of young people that know how to live as part of the land, and pass their knowledge on to the next generation.



Our Strategy

Our Vision

A Blackwood Basin that is flourishing and connected, preserved and improving, valued by our community, protected and productive for the long term.

Our Mission

Inspiring and supporting communities to manage the Blackwood Basin's natural resources for a sustainable, resilient future.

Our Values and Principles

Our Values

- Connecting, building relationships and collaborating.
- Having a positive influence and helping people become more aware of the natural environment.
- Having a worthwhile purpose.
- Demonstrating integrity in what we say and what we do.

Our Principles

- The environmental dimension as primary.
- A positive future legacy for our land and our people.
- Good knowledge, good practice and innovation.
- Production within the long-term ecological big picture.

Our Environmental Goals

Water	Land	Flora & Fauna	People
Rehabilitate, conserve and manage the waterways, lakes, wetlands and estuaries in the Blackwood Basin.	Improve the health and long-term productivity of all land, soils and landscapes of the Blackwood Basin.	Increase the diversity and abundance of all living species and ecosystems found on and in the land, air and aquatic habitats of the Blackwood Basin.	Build generation after generation of communities connected to and caring for their Blackwood Basin.

Our Organisational Goals

Strategic Communications	Culture & Knowledge	Landholder Participation	Quality & Sustainability
Develop our strategic approach to communications.	Safeguard our Blackwood Basin Group culture, and develop, manage and share our communal knowledge.	Build landholder participation and commitment, including engagement of the next landcare generation.	Develop our quality framework to demonstrate our longterm value and build towards long-term financial sustainability.



Our Signs of Success

Goal	Signs of Success in 20 years
<p>WATER</p> <p>To rehabilitate, conserve and manage our waterways, lakes, wetlands and estuaries.</p>	<p>Waterway salinity stabilised Waterway salinity levels stabilised, with downward trends seen in some parts of the hydrological system.</p> <p>Water quality improved The quality of the water running through the entire catchment has improved significantly.</p> <p>Water future secured Water for drinking, supporting agriculture and industry, and creating liveable communities is secured across the catchment.</p> <p>Aquatic habitats endure No loss of aquatic habitats and addition of new habitats where possible.</p>
<p>LAND</p> <p>To improve the health and long term productivity of all land, soils and landscapes.</p>	<p>Dryland salinity stabilised and reversed The area of land affected by dryland salinity is stabilised and reversed.</p> <p>Erosion halted and affected areas rehabilitated No increase in erosion across the catchment and affected areas are rehabilitated.</p> <p>Soil health Soils across the catchment are improving and capable of sustaining agricultural production and native systems, with land uses matched to soil types.</p>
<p>FLORA & FAUNA</p> <p>To increase the diversity and abundance of all native species and ecosystems found on and in the land, in the air and in the aquatic habitats.</p>	<p>River and waterways revegetated Entire length of the Blackwood River and all waterways and strategic land from 'creek edge to crop' are a continuous and connected riparian vegetation corridor.</p> <p>Habitats connected Corridors and connectivity between isolated remnant and newly vegetated habitat areas are restored and/or established.</p> <p>Transitional zone functions reinforced Ecological functions of transitional zones are reinforced to support faunal and floral populations, migrations and adaptations.</p> <p>Extinctions stopped and risk of extinctions decreased No more known plant or animal species have become locally extinct. Increase the number of populations and total abundance of threatened flora and fauna.</p>
<p>PEOPLE</p> <p>To build generation after generation of communities connected to and caring for their Basin.</p>	<p>Landcare as part of primary production processes and systems Individuals, groups and entire communities participating in Landcare as 'the way we do it here in the Blackwood'.</p> <p>Dynamic communication networks Communication within and between individuals, groups and communities is highly effective... word gets around fast in the Blackwood.</p> <p>Cultural heritage sites protected and celebrated Cultural heritage sites across the catchment have been identified and protected, and are proudly celebrated by all.</p> <p>Dynamic partnerships for Landcare Partnerships at all levels with Government, industry, business and community to help us achieve our Landcare goals.</p>

How we will Implement our Strategy

This Strategy will be implemented across the catchment through local landcare action. The landcare teams in the upper, middle and lower catchments have prepared action plans that provide a local response to the Strategy. Each landcare team has identified local priorities that align with the strategic goals. These priorities are captured in their local action plans as goals, objectives and activities that will see them through the next two to three years of operation, and will be reviewed every five years.

By aligning with the strategic goals of the Blackwood Basin Group Strategy, each local landcare team is contributing to the realisation of the unified vision and mission of our Network. Our unified approach to landcare is very important to the health of the Blackwood Basin, because in the natural environment, everything is connected...and so are we.

Contact

For more information on the strategic direction of the Blackwood Basin Group, please contact:

Blackwood Basin Group Inc.
19 Bridge St, Boyup Brook WA 6244
Ph: 08 9765 1555
enquiries@blackwoodbasingroup.com.au



*This project is supported by
funding from the Western
Australian Government's State
NRM Program.*







Blackwood Basin Group

Blackwood Basin Group Inc.

19 Bridge St, Boyup Brook WA 6244

Ph: 08 9765 1555

enquiries@blackwoodbasingroup.com.au