

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	C.11/1120	<b>FILE REF.</b>	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Waterwise Action Plan and Associated Memorandum of Understanding		
<b>PROPONENT</b>	Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Water Corporation		
<b>OFFICER</b>	Waste & Environmental Officer and Chief Executive Officer		
<b>DATE OF REPORT</b>	24 November 2020		

Attachment 10 – Waterwise Council Action Plan for Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

Attachment 11 – Memorandum of Understanding – Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Water Corporation

Reason for Urgent Business: The deadline for submitting Waterwise Action Plans for funding consideration in 2021/22 is Friday 27 November 2020. Endorsement of the Action Plan at the November Council meeting will open up funding opportunities in early 2021 to implement the Action Plan

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

*That Item C.11/1120 be accepted as urgent business.*

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

1. *Endorse the Waterwise Council Action Plan 2020 for Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.*
2. *Enter into a Waterwise Council Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Corporation and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation; and*
3. *Authorise the CEO to execute the Waterwise Council Memorandum of Understanding*

#### Summary/Purpose

That Council endorse the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Water Corporation and endorsement of its first Waterwise Action Plan in order to commence participation in the Waterwise Council Program.

#### Background

Water Corporation and the then Department of Water launched the Waterwise Council Program in 2009 to build a cooperative working relationship with local governments to improve water use efficiency in their operations and their communities.

Population and economic growth combined with the changing climate are placing additional pressures on those planning, managing and using our water resources. In

response, the State Government is creating a portfolio of options to meet our future water demands highlighting the importance of water use efficiency.

The partnership with Local Governments is an essential component in achieving water savings in our communities. The Program will assist the Shire to improve water management of potable and non-potable sources for public open space and facilities. The Program also supports behavioural changes in the community by encouraging the use of products and services designed to reduce water demand.

Council, in February 2017 resolved:

*C.05/0217 That Council endorse the recommendation from its Sustainability Advisory Committee and direct the CEO to submit a request to the Water Corporation for commencement of the process to becoming a "Waterwise Council".*

To formally join the Waterwise Council Program a Memorandum of Understanding needs to be entered into with the Water Corporation and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to outline the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes' commitment to the Waterwise Council Program and detail the organisation's commitment to build a cooperative working relationship to sustainably manage water use in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes area and increase awareness of the importance of building water sensitive communities.

A draft Waterwise Action Plan 2020 has been developed for Council's consideration. If endorsed the Action Plan is forwarded to the Water Corporation for assessment.

#### Officer Comment

There is considerable benefit for the Shire to participate in the Waterwise Council Program and join 66 other WA local governments' that are engaged in the program. By participating in the program the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes will gain access to program resources such as funding, training and technical support to assist the Shire and community to be more waterwise and efficient in water use.

A draft Waterwise Action Plan has been developed that identifies the largest drawdowns of water and identifies various actions to better manage water use. This includes audit and monitoring of water usage, detecting/repairing water leaks, auditing irrigation/reticulation, establishing baseline water budgets for key sites and development of new policies.

Once a Waterwise Action Plan has been endorsed an annual report must be submitted each year (typically in October) to retain Waterwise Council status. The annual report includes reporting on corporate and community scheme water use and updates on how actions in the Plan have been progressed.

As a Waterwise Council the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes will have access to:

- Funding of up to \$10,000 each year as part of the Waterwise Greening Scheme
- Free online waterwise training for staff

- Access to workshops, networking and industry events
- Access to water data and key industry contacts
- Promotional and educational materials for distribution to community
- Data loggers to assist with leak detection

#### Statutory Environment - Nil

#### Integrated Planning

- Strategic Community Plan
  - Key Goal 2: Our natural environment is valued, conserved and enjoyed
  - Objective 2.1 - Value, protect and enhance our natural environment
  - Strategy 2.1.1 - Support and promote sound environmental management practices
  - Objective 2.2 - Enhanced parklands, reserves and gardens
  - Strategy 2.2.2 - Manage the Shire's parks on a waterwise basis
- Corporate Business Plan
  - Strategy 2.2.2 - Manage the Shire's parks on a waterwise basis
  - Action 2.2.2.1 - Develop a waterwise action plan
- Long Term Financial Plan - Nil
- Asset Management Plans - Nil
- Workforce Plan - Nil
- Other Integrated Planning - Nil

#### Policy Implications – Nil

#### Budget Implications

No specific financial implications are foreseen arising from this report. There is however potential savings from a greater awareness and hence efficiency in resource usage. There will be an opportunity for small grants each year.

#### Whole of Life Accounting - Nil

#### Risk Management - Nil

#### Voting Requirements – Simple Majority