1. **Revegetation**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Increase perennial vegetation cover | By 2023, the condition of nationally threatened ecological communities (TEC) on private land is improved   * Wheatbelt Woodlands | Dowerin Surveys  Bioblitz survey  YourSay platform  Community Tree Days |

WHAT

Community tree planting project providing technical advice and financial assistance to undertake work on private land.

WHY

* Target of 30% revegetation cover is identified in the Regional strategy as a threshold of potential concern for species viability
* Improve the condition and extent of the TEC with buffer planting, infill and understory planting
* Deliver on the Wheatbelt corridor plan – fragmentation is a key controlling variable for species viability in the Regional Strategy
* Australian Government is looking to invest in projects that will protect and enhance on-farm remnant native vegetation, including improving the management of existing remnants, wetlands, rocky outcrops and paddock trees

WHY IT IS GREAT

Wheatbelt NRM will be able to match the community who want to do revegetation with the best strategic outcome for the environment.

1. **Avon Waterways**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Fence and revegetate waterways | N/A  We will seek alternative funding | Dowerin Surveys  Bioblitz survey  YourSay platform  Community Tree Days |

WHAT

Waterways management including fencing, revegetation, creation of walk trails and encouraging recreational use.

WHY

* Riparian management is identified in the Regional Strategy as a key driver for river function
* Our partners, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, have committed to work with the Wheatbelt community on Avon Waterways
* Our partners, CARE (Caring for the Avon River Environment) are highly motivated and need supporting
* Walk Trails are identified in the Noongar Boodja strategy

WHY IT IS GREAT

It leverages off the valuable planning work that Wheatbelt NRM and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation did during NHT1. We have the plans, we know what to do next.

1. **Citizen science mapping of the Wheatbelt Woodlands**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Maintain and increase areas of native vegetation | By 2023, the condition of nationally threatened ecological communities (TEC) on private land is improved   * Wheatbelt Woodlands | Bioblitz  YourSay platform |

WHAT

Community ground truth Governments mapping of the TEC Wheatbelt Woodlands. Working from roadside and on public land. Data is provided to local government to assist them with their biodiversity management including roadside vegetation management. Data is provided to Australian Government to assist with the management of the TEC.

WHY

* The listing of the TEC is quite new with land managers currently unaware if their bushland is part of the TEC
* Ground truthing of high level data has never been carried out on the TEC, even collecting photos would improve the management
* Wheatbelt NRM’s long term approach of getting the community active in NRM needs to include work that enables those that don’t own land

WHY IT IS GREAT

Wheatbelt NRM has the ecologists and the communications skills to develop a process for the community to use to do an initial assessment of a bush block. A central process would deliver Quality Assurance and Quality Control as well as data management. There are over 3000 association members of Wheatbelt NRM that could create the workforce for this project.

We already have some benchmarking work that identifies ‘good examples’ of various vegetation communities that form part of the TEC (Baselining project 2015-08).

1. **Farm Trials and Demonstrations projects to support knowledge of Soils Health Management**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Support agricultural industry innovation targeting efficiency in chemical use and improved soil health. | By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation | Dowerin Surveys  Women Farmers day  Regenerative Farmers Workshop  YourSay platform |

WHAT

On-farm trial and demonstration projects that allow growers to explore innovative farming practices that improve soil health. Uses the farm practice change model, and is supported by sophisticated extension strategy.

WHY

* Soil productivity is one of the big resources issues in the regional strategy
* Considerable traction with Grower groups and innovative farmers, including support from the National Soil Health advocate
* Wheatbelt NRM is an associate partner in the CRC of High Performance Soils

WHY IT IS GREAT

The Wheatbelt community has led the way in soil innovations in the past such as No-Till. Wheatbelt NRMs experience with running similar projects shows that the community appetite to participate is considerable.

1. **Regenerative Farming Network**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Support agricultural industry innovation targeting efficiency in chemical use and improved soil health. | By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation | Soils for life Workshop  Talkin Soils Health Management committee |

WHAT

Establish a knowledge sharing group running across the South West of WA. Regenerative agriculture is an approach to food and farming systems that regenerates topsoil and increases biodiversity now and long into the future. This includes biological farming.

WHY

* Regenerative farming approaches aligns with the priorities of the Regional Strategy such as:
  + Maintain ground cover on agricultural land
  + Improve nutrient use efficiency
  + Optimise management of soil pH
  + And develop viable economic system on saline land
* Will also support the NLP2 outcome for having an agricultural system that has the capacity to adapt.

WHY IT IS GREAT

This is a cross regional Project that is being led by Perth NRM, in partnership with 6 of the 7 Regional Groups in WA. This growing movement includes some of the most innovative farmers in WA, it provides an opportunity to learn from the experiences outside of our region and provide leadership.

1. **Aboriginal people doing work on country**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Explore traditional aboriginal knowledge. | N/A   * fits the logic of ‘Closing the Gap’ * provides the required core services of “Facilitate the inclusion of Indigenous participation, aspirations and implementation in planning and delivery of the Services.” | Aboriginal Advisory Group  YourSay platform |

WHAT

Continue to support the Aboriginal Rangers team by seeking contract labour opportunities to work on country delivering NRM with Wheatbelt NRM, Shires and other land managers. Wheatbelt NRM manages the team including supplying training, supervision and equipment.

WHY

* Key strategy in the Noongar Boodja document – employment working on country
* Elders advisory group sees NRM as a way to help youth maintain their connection to country
* Strengthens the relationships within the NRM community to allow for sharing of traditional knowledge
* Creates a flexible workforce for delivering on ground NRM projects

WHY IT IS GREAT

Noongar Boodja Rangers are already up and running, they have had 50 workdays in the past year involving 30 different participants. The team has proven its value and is starting to win contracts for work outside of Wheatbelt NRM.

1. **Road Side Vegetation Management**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Promote, support and implement active management of native vegetation | By 2023, the condition of nationally threatened ecological communities (TEC) on private land is improved   * Wheatbelt Woodlands | YourSay platform  Dowerin Field days  Bioblitz |

WHAT

Working with local governments to improve environmental outcomes of roadside vegetation management, including community led management and improved communication.

WHY

* The TEC Wheatbelt Woodlands acknowledges the significance of roadside vegetation in the community
* Considerable community concern about past/current roadside vegetation management
* Wheatbelt NRM’s long term approach of getting the community active in NRM needs to include work that enables those that don’t own land

WHY IT IS GREAT

Opportunity for Wheatbelt NRM to bring together players across Local Governments with community.

1. **Biodiversity supporting farming outcomes**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Promote, support and implement active management of native vegetation | By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation. | YourSay platform  Dowerin Field days  Bioblitz |

WHAT

Support farming families to manage their on-farm bush as a valuable part of the farming system. This would include fencing, revegetation, fire management, weed and pest control.

WHY

* Ecological services of native bushland include - pollination, erosion control, salinity control and integrated pest management
* Australian Government is looking to invest in projects that will protect and enhance on-farm remnant native vegetation, including improving the management of existing remnants, wetlands, rocky outcrops and paddock trees

WHY IT IS GREAT

This is the traditional work of Wheatbelt NRM, and the community continues to respond well to it. The leverage created by the cost sharing with land managers is considerable.

1. **Optimising Mixed farming systems**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| * Promote ‘fit for purpose’ land use * Diversify agriculture to take advantage of landscape variability * Promote and implement farming systems resilient to seasonal variability * Develop opportunities for perennial vegetation-based enterprises | By 2023, agriculture systems have a capacity to adapt to significant changes in climate, weather and markets. | YourSay platform  Dowerin Field days  Soils For Life workshop |

WHAT

The project will bring together expertise to trials and develop new on-farm approaches – including agronomy, developing markets and broadening supply chains. Agricultural diversification may include summer crops, fodder management, tree cropping, Aboriginal farming systems and biological farming.

WHY

* Regional strategy recognises that the lack of diversity in Wheatbelt farming enterprises limits the resilience of the system
* Regional strategy identifies climate change as driving down catchment water availability, which will force changes in current farming systems
* NLP2 wants to invest in projects that support industries, farmers and fishers to adopt new management practices that helps them to adjust to market and/or climate variability

WHY IT IS GREAT

Supporting the agronomy of tree and fodder crops is a traditional area of work for Wheatbelt NRM. The proposed outcomes for NLP2 take a systems approach that will let us expand to support the development of the supply chain associated with those systems.

1. **Landcare in towns**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Households implementation of sustainable living practices encouraged | N/A | YourSay platform  Dowerin Field days  Bioblitz |

WHAT

Work with Local Governments to support town based efforts for sustainability, including improving recycling, feral cat management, habitat creation in home gardens, habitat creation in parks, street scapes and community gardens.

WHY

* Changing population structure in Wheatbelt means that while farming enterprises are getting larger there are tree changers coming into the Avon Arc that wish to get involved
* Local Government has been a long-time supporter and participant of NRM, this is an opportunity for Wheatbelt NRM to enhance the work that Local Governments are already doing (not giving them more work!)
* Strong community message in Local Governments strategic community plans about town amenity as an environmental priority
* Overall vision in the Regional Strategy is about “sense of place”

WHY IT IS GREAT

Local Government is already required to do street-scaping, feral cat management, waste management etc. It provides opportunity for us to work with them to enhance their efforts (and join it up across the region) and will improve the outcome for the same level of effort.

Any efforts in back yards will have a better chance of receiving on-going management. It is a numbers game, in driving political support for Landcare as well as expanding the volunteer base.

1. **Delivering on the Threatened Species Strategy**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| * Coordinate fire and invasive species management in both conservation and agricultural systems * Increased perennial vegetation cover | By 2023, the trajectory of Threatened Species Strategy priority species is improved | YourSay platform  Dowerin Field days  Boiblitz |

WHAT

Using landscape scale planning and targeted landholder engagement to improve the range, extent and population viability of threatened species in the Wheatbelt. Mobilise the community to deliver on the actions in recovery plans for Mallee Fowl, Numbats, Black Flank Rock Wallaby and Chuditch. Likely to include feral control, weed management and habitat improvement via bush land protection and corridor enhancement.

WHY

* The Wheatbelt is part of the South West Australian international biodiversity hotspot
* Strong focus in the NLP2 outcomes
* Species viability is one of the big resource issues in the Regional Strategy – the actions identified in various Species recovery plans align with priority actions in our strategy (increase targeted feral animal control, control weeds in native vegetation, improve the connectivity of perennial vegetation systems)

WHY IT IS GREAT

In the last round of NLP, coupled with support from State NRM we demonstrated what can be achieved by the community. Our projects undertaking coordinated predator control around Black Flanked Rock Wallaby habitat and the corridor project in the Mortlock exceeded our expectations – and received national acclaim. We are on a roll and need to keep leading the way for other Regions.

1. **Building the resilience of our bushland**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| * Coordinate fire and invasive species management in both conservation and agricultural systems * Promote, support and implement active management of native vegetation | By 2023, the condition of nationally threatened ecological communities (TEC) on private land is improved   * Wheatbelt Woodlands | YourSay platform  Dowerin Field days  Boiblitz |

WHAT

Bushcare Grant with landowners to improve management (feral control, weeds, grazing pressure, infill planting, buffer planting and corridor enhancement). Each grant application will allow for a site assessment to determine if this bushland meets the criteria to be part of the TEC.

WHY

* Mapping for the TEC covers most of our Region. This is because ground truthing hasn’t happened and it is the level of clearing in our region that threatens this ecological community
* Our regional strategy identifies the level of past clearing in the Wheatbelt as one of the key controlling variables in ecosystem health – the resilience of the system is such that it requires management which makes community engagement and working of private land very important
* The Wheatbelt is part of the South West Australian international biodiversity hotspot
* Strong focus in the NLP2 outcomes

WHY IT IS GREAT

This project will focus on private land, whereas the Citizen Science Project will be limited by access to land. Together they will build the data set to ground truth the mapping for the TEC.

The central Wheatbelt has only 10% remaining bushland. It is this area that local knowledge tells us has a good areas of salmon gum etc left, any work in enhancing bush land will improve the resilience of the TEC.

1. **Red Card feral pest management program**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Coordinate fire and invasive species management in both conservation and agricultural systems | By 2023, the condition of nationally threatened ecological communities (TEC) on private land is improved   * Wheatbelt Woodlands   By 2023, the trajectory of Threatened Species Strategy priority species is improved  (but loose) | YourSay platform |

WHAT

Continue the Red Card feral pest management program. South West WA program of community participation in fox, cat and rabbit spring time management.

WHY

* Feral animal control is key for Ecosystem Health. This program builds skills, capacity and community acceptance for culling
* The Wheatbelt is part of the South West Australian international biodiversity hotspot
* Strong focus in the NLP2 outcomes

WHY IT IS GREAT

Long term program that is operating cross regionally – with Regional Group Partners and support of Sporting Shooters Association and Wheatbelt Mens Health. Low cost, high profile work.

1. **Building the volunteer base**

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Strengthen partnerships in the understanding and management of our social-ecological systems | Not direct but under core services they want  “Support the NRM community, including Landcare, and industry to participate in Regional Land Partnerships” | YourSay platform |

WHAT

Run annual community volunteering activities/ experiences – BioBlitz, school planting days, tree planting days, Noongar Womens Camp. Set up a volunteers list that is connected to Local Landcare groups, to access volunteers and offer volunteering activities.

WHY

* Overarching strategy in current three year plan is “…have 25% of the community actively improving the environmental of the Wheatbelt…”. Need to keep expanding the opportunities for the community to participate - beyond those managing farms
* We get calls from people wanting to know how they can volunteer and we know we can improve in this area
* Many Local Landcare groups could do with some young “arms and legs” to get things done
* Acknowledge X and Y gens are less likely to join governance structures of groups – but they will volunteer

WHY IT IS GREAT

One of the most important services that the Regional Group does for the community is Strategic planning, we always want input, but it is much harder to get if large sections of the community aren’t active in the work.

Volunteering creates social good as well – commit/act/belong. It is a good way to get youth involved, who don’t own land.

1. **Optimising chemical use on farm**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| Support agricultural industry innovation target efficiency in chemical use and improved soil health | By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.  By 2023, agriculture systems have a capacity to adapt to significant changes in climate, weather and markets | YourSay platform  Soils for Life Work Shop  Goomalling Womens day  Dowerin Field Days |

WHAT

Provision of skills and knowledge to growers to help them optimise their nutrient management for soil health, water quality, community health and agricultural protection. Provision of skills and knowledge to growers to help them optimise their herbicide/pesticide management for soil health, water quality, community health and agricultural protection. We will use peer mentoring, decision support tools and support for innovation.

WHY

* Farm financial viability is one of the key controlling variables in the Regional Strategy, and headlines in the Vision – chemicals are a large part of the budget
* NLP2 recognises that standards to achieve access to markets are likely to change significantly and we want to prepare farmers to adapt
* Soils productivity is one of the big resources issue for the Wheatbelt, with soil acidity, compaction and declining organic carbon issues

WHY IT IS GREAT

It is a touchy issue, but just quietly – everyone is asking for it

1. **Sharing culture**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
| “explore traditional Aboriginal knowledge” is identified as a strategic priority for all of the five year strategic objectives | n/a   * fits the logic of Closing the Gap * Provides the required core services of “Facilitate the inclusion of Indigenous participation, aspirations and implementation in planning and delivery of the Services.” | YourSay platform  Aboriginal Advisory Group  BioBlitz |

WHAT

Maintain Elders advisory group. Continue efforts to appropriately record and share traditional knowledge, e.g. Noongar Boodja Website, encouraging use of language, site work and highlighting the cross-over of culture and environmental management.

WHY

* The Noongar Boodja strategy five year targets include “Recoding of traditional knowledge for NRM”, “use of Noongar Language” and “meaningful discussion”
* Australian Government is encouraging RAPs (reconciliation action plans) as part of expected governance requirements
* The work the advisory groups has produced to date – dictionary, sites story books, cultural knowledge videos – is the most accessed material of the organisation

WHY IT IS GREAT

The Elders advisory group has been working with us for over 10 years, they are a strong and vital part of how NRM is delivered in the Wheatbelt.

The Aboriginal Environment Interpretive Centre that is opening in Northam next year has used a lot of the information that our past ‘recoding of traditional knowledge’ projects have curated. This is a massive validation for the value of this work.

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
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Why it is great

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| Regional strategy | NLP2 Outcomes | Community Idea |
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