

## Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023

### Consultation Findings

January 2018



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## 1. Introduction

This report presents the consultation findings and analysis of the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023.

The City of Marion Business Plan 2016-19 has a key deliverable to plan and deliver a program for the protection of Remnant Native Vegetation in our reserves. The *Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023* outlines what biodiversity and remnant vegetation are, the values of remnant vegetation, the key threatening processes to the ongoing protection of remnant vegetation and the principles which are used to manage remnant native vegetation. A series of opportunities and actions have been developed with associated budgets determined.

The *Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023* has determined where remnant vegetation exists on City of Marion reserves. Virtually every reserve in the City of Marion has some form of remnant vegetation, often just a native grass species or salt bush. To ensure a relevant scope, this plan looks at protection of remnant vegetation in the most valuable of these sites. A process was adapted from the previous Department for Water and Natural Resource Management Urban Biodiversity Program to enable assessment and prioritisation of sites. Sites known or presumed to have remnant vegetation were assessed using a number of criteria including:

- The existing and pre-European vegetation types
- The native plant species present
- Plants of conservation significance
- A public exposure and engagement score
- Weed threats
- Bushland degradation threats.

Each of the attributes recorded was then given a score and ranked. In total 29 sites of over 50 assessed were chosen as the priority remnant native vegetation sites to be managed across the City of Marion, totalling approximately 80 hectares. The *Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023* was written to be a guiding document and not to deliver detailed management on a site by site basis. It is proposed in managing these areas that a flexible year to year approach is required with general guidelines adopted for sites and these implemented according to seasonal conditions and the progress achieved on site, via annual work plans. The *Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023* was also intended to be enjoyable to read, succinct, non-technical where possible and not rooted in legislative and legal requirements. It was hoped the document would be something community members would find valuable and informative.



## **2. Community Consultation Program**

Community consultation occurred over a 3 week period from 14 November 2017 to 5 December 2017 included;

- On line Survey (Making Marion)
- Promotional Video linked to Website Project Page
- Social Media (Facebook)

The consultation featured a short video, some FAQ's and three survey questions

## **3. Community Consultation Findings**

Consultation responses direct to City of Marion included;

- 34 on-line surveys
  - 2 email responses

#### 4. Summary of Survey Responses

The key comments received have been summarised below and includes responses received by phone, email and both online and hard copy surveys.

##### **Importance of protecting Remnant Native Vegetation in the City of Marion?**

Overwhelmingly the consultation results suggest that people think protecting Remnant Native Vegetation is important. Of the 34 responses received, 33 rated it as very important, with one response being slightly important.

##### **Level of support for the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023 ?**

Overwhelmingly the consultation results suggest that people think protecting Remnant Native Vegetation is important. Of the 34 responses received, 33 rated it as very important, with one response being slightly important.

##### **Importance of actions ranked 1 to 8 (with priority one actions being awarded eight points and priority eight actions one point).**

From the 34 survey responses, the actions were ranked as

1. Weed Control – 234 points
2. Rare plant conservation programs – 203 points
3. Vegetation Condition Monitoring – 174 points
4. Volunteer Support – 151 points
5. Fencing and Access Control – 143 points
6. Website and Education material – 111 points
7. Signs – 105 points
8. Firebreak Management – 94 points

Clearly weed control is a very high priority and hence the budget for the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan reflects this. It was not expected that rare plant conservation programs would be rated so highly but this is supported in the plan and is complemented by weed control programs. Condition monitoring rates highly and this is desirable as it allows us to track our success in the plan. Volunteer support is also high and this is supported through the Trees For Life partnership.



#### 4.1. Comments Received

Comments are provided as per the survey, names and addresses removed.

Congratulations on a comprehensive plan. It is difficult to establish priorities because each is essential to the success of the programme. Communicating with and education of people adjacent to native vegetation is essential to the success of the plan, but so is the involvement of the whole community. Best wishes and thanks for taking a stand for our environment.

Great initiative Council! Our native vegetation needs to be cared for and protected before it's all gone.

Fully support the plan. Thankyou

City of Marion should be commended on the sector leading initiative they are taking in the much neglected area of native vegetation management. Strong emphasis needs to be placed on the eradication of weed tree species such as Aleppo Pines, Willows, Golden Wreath Wattle, Swamp Sheoak, Canary Island Palms, Pepper Trees and Norfolk Island Hibiscus that prevent native plants from growing, spread invasively and degrade waterways. Thank you for playing your part in restoring the natural landscape of South Australia for wildlife and people. Damian Landrigan resident of Hallett Cove and the Cormorant Drive Reserve.

Excellent plan and well overdue for our area. We are very lucky to have remnant vegetation left in our council area and feel that the budgets pertaining to the various management actions are well justified and completely reasonable. Having green areas, remnant vegetation and linkages formed with revegetation is a priceless asset for the City of Marion, it adds local character and provides natural cooling and fresh air in an otherwise asphalt and concrete environment and will only continue to increase in value if the education, weed control and volunteer programs are properly supported by the council, including elected members. Every facet of council should have an affinity with these assets and be looked upon as something to be proud to be a part of. It is widely accepted and mainstream to be seeing natural assets comprised of local biodiversity reserves as an integral part of the character, function and local identity of ones town or city, it is great to see the City of Marion step up! Future influx and retention will surely increase if the City of

Marion has attractive, bio-diverse and balanced natural areas to live in- it's a no-brainer. This plan is a real credit to (name removed) and the City of Marion. It would be great to see additional contractor assistance annually on Bush For Life sites like TFL Works do in other council areas. This would really help out the volunteers with harder tasks such as brush cutting and spraying.

I commend the City of Marion for developing a Remnant Native Vegetation Plan. It is critical to have a Plan to ensure that remnant native vegetation is managed appropriately into the future. This Plan identifies the importance of remnant native vegetation and is critical to ensuring that Council has appropriate resources and funding to protect and manage this into the future. I strongly support the endorsement of this Plan.

An excellent plan with great information written so that anyone can understand it rather than being too to higher level. Well done

Remnant vegetation has to be maintained, for biodiversity reasons and habitat for wildlife. But the key to me is reducing development near the sites and educating people of the importance.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I am commenting on behalf of 10 volunteers from the Friends of Sturt River Landcare Group. Other volunteers will also comment separately, but this response comes after discussion with volunteers who dislike writing submissions, but care deeply about this issue. We strongly support the protection and management of remnant plant communities that remain, as well on-going revegetation using local-native species, particularly along the Sturt River (Linear Park/shared use trail). We highlight this area because we completely agree – fragmentation is the enemy of biodiversity planting/landscape restoration in Marion and also elsewhere. We found it incredibly difficult to rank the actions - we really do need them all. On-ground That said, we consider on-ground actions (weeding, fencing, planting, monitoring) to be those that need most priority, with on-ground interpretive signage to follow so people understand what they're looking at when they come across it. We also strongly support education and training for Council work crews in identifying plants, targeted poisoning and weed removal techniques. Support for volunteers is a great step forward - particularly on the issue of insurance, plant id, setting up home nurseries and improving our knowledge of Kaurna heritage. Public education We think there is potential for grants-based funding, particularly for education materials, once a city-wide plan is in place and that could help offset some costs (such as signage.) Many of our volunteers are especially keen on the idea of interpretive signage on completed sites - eg. Get to know the locals: highlight half a

dozen common local-natives, their common/botanical name, Kuarna use, commercial bush food potential, biodiversity impact (birds, insects, mammals, frogs etc) and suitability for the garden. Put this on a sign near a walking trail so we know what to look for, why it's important, and that we can get it from a specialist nursery to plant at home. We are less keen on spending lots on public education/awareness-raising. Much of it already exists and we would like to see existing topics utilised first so that funds go to change on the ground. We need a well-coordinated effort from Council on this plan. You are clearly doing some great things already, but the effort is quite fragmented at times. This plan could be a great opportunity for you to work together to increase the overall impact of the biodiversity activity. For example, the plan needs active support from the street tree program, and the Open Space planning team. Some of the existing landscape planning could benefit from a focus on creating natural restorative spaces rather than focusing so strongly on built forms and activated play spaces. Also, could more native vegetation topics could be incorporated into existing environmental education programs? (eg. Common Thread) to help raise awareness and get more habitat planting in front/back yards and on the verge? Could existing maps/guides for reserves be updated to include remnant vegetation or biodiversity planting sites? (The Guide to Oaklands Wetland, for example, suggests a leisurely 40 minute walk of the site but it does not include the biodiversity corridors, nature trails or mention the remnant red gums.) In conclusion, we are generally highly supportive of this plan and the direction it sets and we would look forward to a well-coordinated implementation from Council.

This weekend, I walked around Oaklands Reserve and Wetland and then crossed over the bridge near the train line to walk back along the path where a small almond grove remains from many years ago and was shocked to see a substantial planting on oak trees there. It conflicts with the ethos of Oaklands Reserve and Wetland's Biodiversity policy - even though it's outside of the boundary.

A skate park next to the wetlands was a bad idea. So much noise and lots of rubbish is always scattered around. I visit Oaklands wetlands regularly and am disappointed by the amount of rubbish the skate park generates right next to the waterway.

(Name Removed) and his team are to be commended on their passion and hard work for such an important project. We in the City of Marion are very lucky indeed to have (Name Removed) and others and I am sure that his passion is spreading throughout the Council and beyond. Many of the above actions I would have liked to have given a much higher ranking, so just because a task is rated a 6 or a 7, it doesn't mean that they are not important. This is a very important document and I sincerely hope that (Name Removed) is being given adequate support and resources to make this work, the great success that it deserves to be. I look forward to seeing its progress and to seeing many species of native plants appearing across the City of Marion, not just in the parks and reserves. Fantastic effort people. A rare example of how my ratepayer's money should be spent and hopefully the local birdlife and other forms of biodiversity around us will benefit and numbers will recover.

Natural biodiversity and functioning ecosystems are the most important heritage we can leave future generations. Economies grow and fail and are a tool to get us to where we want to be, but should never be the primary dictators of public policy.

Slow response to new invasive species (Stapella variegata,) (Anthyllis barbajovis) and little action on Bone Seed and Olives is establishing a seed bank on COM coastal land that now may not be controllable.

Response to Native Vegetation Management Draft Plan for the City Of Marion To whom it concerns I wish to add my wholeheartedly support for the draft management plan for Native Vegetation in the City of Marion. As background, I wish to state: 1. I have lived at (address removed), Marion for over 20 years 2. I have been employed in biological science for over 35 years 3. I have a degree in botany and zoology 4. I am currently a volunteer with the Friends of the Marino Conservation Park I have a strong empathy for natural environment. I believe there is intrinsic value and considerable value for residents and visitors to the City of Marion. The draft management plan is of great value to me as it documents the native vegetation and some of the fauna in my district. Now that I am more aware of the location of the native vegetation I plan to visit the various sites. Community benefits of using native environments by council. More specifically, I have observed the construction and maintenance of the coast walking trail given my home butts the trail. The trail is a great asset to Marion. I am able to observe many people using the trail ranging up to 50 people at an one moment across only 150m (approximately) of trail on a public

holiday. This is amazing number of people keeping fit, bonding with their family and observing nature. Even with the high numbers on public holidays there has no problems for me due to noise or any other downside after many years. Recently I have witnessed the replaced of hand rails to a more robust type that must have been at great expense. The coast walking trail I believe would be of great benefit to local businesses including the Marino Rocks restaurant and the Boat Shed Cafe. I have also witnessed the development of the Cove Rd cycle track has been a great bonus that is well used. The Newland Avenue community garden and native vegetation reserve has changed a barren park to a space with greater biodiversity, increased eye appeal and a local community focus. Mr (Name Removed) has also commenced upgrading the Westcliff Court Reserve to a native vegetation park as requested by local residents including myself. Streetscapes such as that on the south west corner of the Sturt and Diagonal Rds intersection which has a native tree over storey and shrub understorey is a great example of improving the urban plains of Marion using native species. This is an example of diverse vegetation pleasing to the eye.

Concerns and improvements Walking trail and Native vegetation sites However, I have some concerns these are for the Coast Walking trail:

1. Greater efforts are required to ongoing remove woody weeds (olives, African box thorn, Boneseed) from the coastal walking trail and other native vegetation sites.
2. Herbaceous weed should be controlled with priorities to include Artichoke thistle, Fountain grass, Scabiosa
3. Encroachment of housing development (e.g. soil and rubble fill, fencing) into any areas described in the draft report and in particular the coastal walking trail should be controlled with enforcement requests.
4. Enforcement of requests to remove garden waste dumped in native vegetation areas and particularly the coastal walking trail. Local resident maybe first point of contact and likely source
5. Greater encouragement and education is required for residents butting the coast walking trail to remove or at least control declared weedy species in their gardens or vacant land. Examples include woody weeds present at some vacant land for many years (e.g. Box thorn over 10 meters cubed in volume) Weeds targeted to include boneseed, fountain grass, olives.

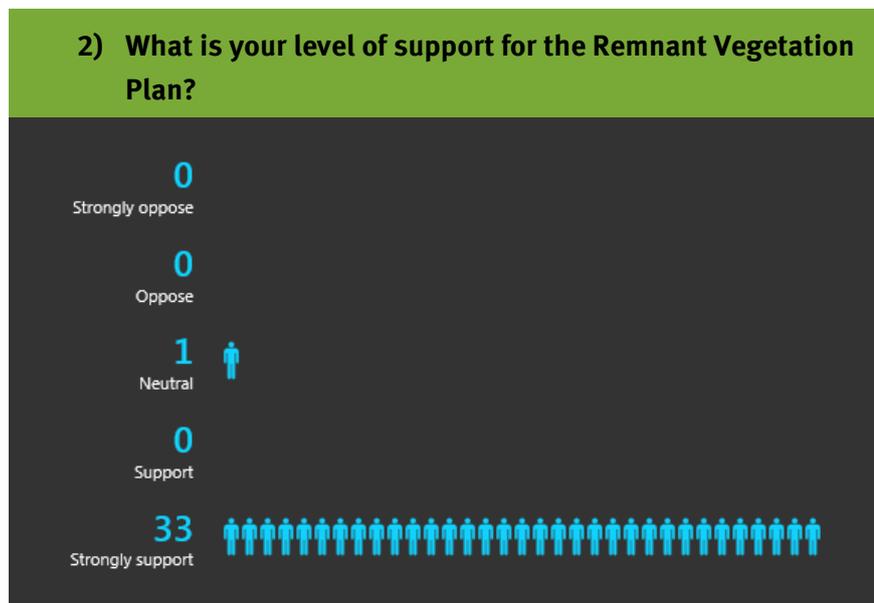
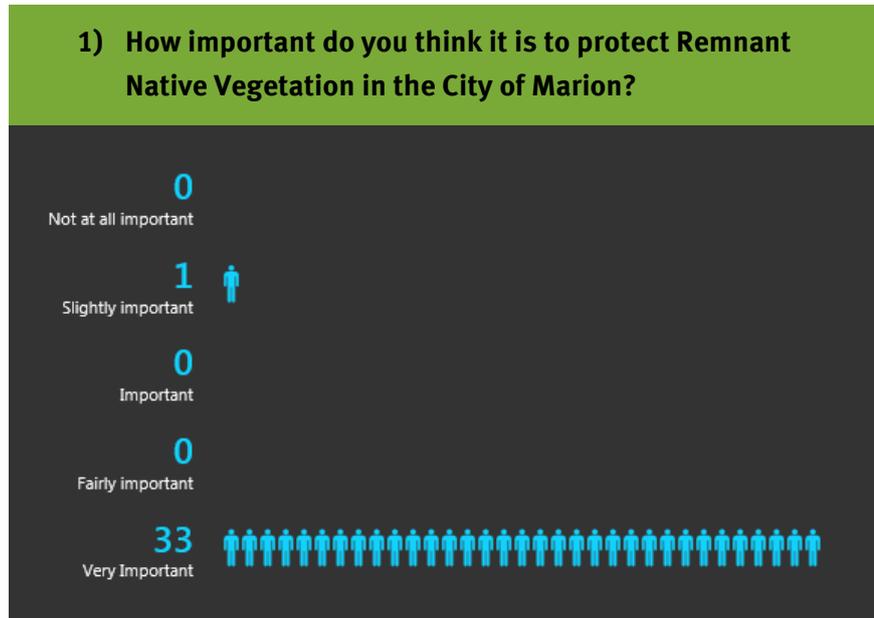
Streetscape I am concerned that Marion council allows woody weeds such as Olives to be planted and/ or volunteer in roadside verges. In line with the Native vegetation draft management plan, I would encourage the Marion Council to remove any volunteered woody weeds. Where woody weeds are planted council should offer alternatives prior to planting or when first observed planted ( e.g. volunteer Olive at corner Scholefield Rd and Newland Ave, age 20+ yrs, seed spread by galahs, Aleppo Pine along Cove Rd at Westcliff Court). In addition planting of native understorey along the northern Cove Rd, I believe would enhance the linkage of isolated native vegetation. Links with National Parks and coastal management authorities. Some of the Native Vegetation areas described in the plan share boundaries with National Parks or Coast Management Areas. I believe long term control of weeds particularly woody weeds is best undertake in conjunction with these authorizes. This is apticularly so for the



Coastal Walking trail. Many Olive trees grow to the west of the walking trail fence that is presumably Coast Management area. Greater coordination would see these plants that degrade native vegetation removed. In summary, I fully support the Native Vegetation Draft Management plan. I encourage the Marion Council to fully fund the Plan. Any later supplementary funding should also be fully funded. I request the Marion Council to fund and focus more particularly 1. Removal of Woody weeds from within the Coastal Walking Trail and native vegetation sites. 2. Control encroachment and green / hard waste dumping from development of vacant land or supplementary development of existing houses associated with native vegetation area. 3. Great coordination of weed control with public authorities or private individuals on their land that is adjacent to Native Vegetation Sites. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment. All comments are made in good faith.

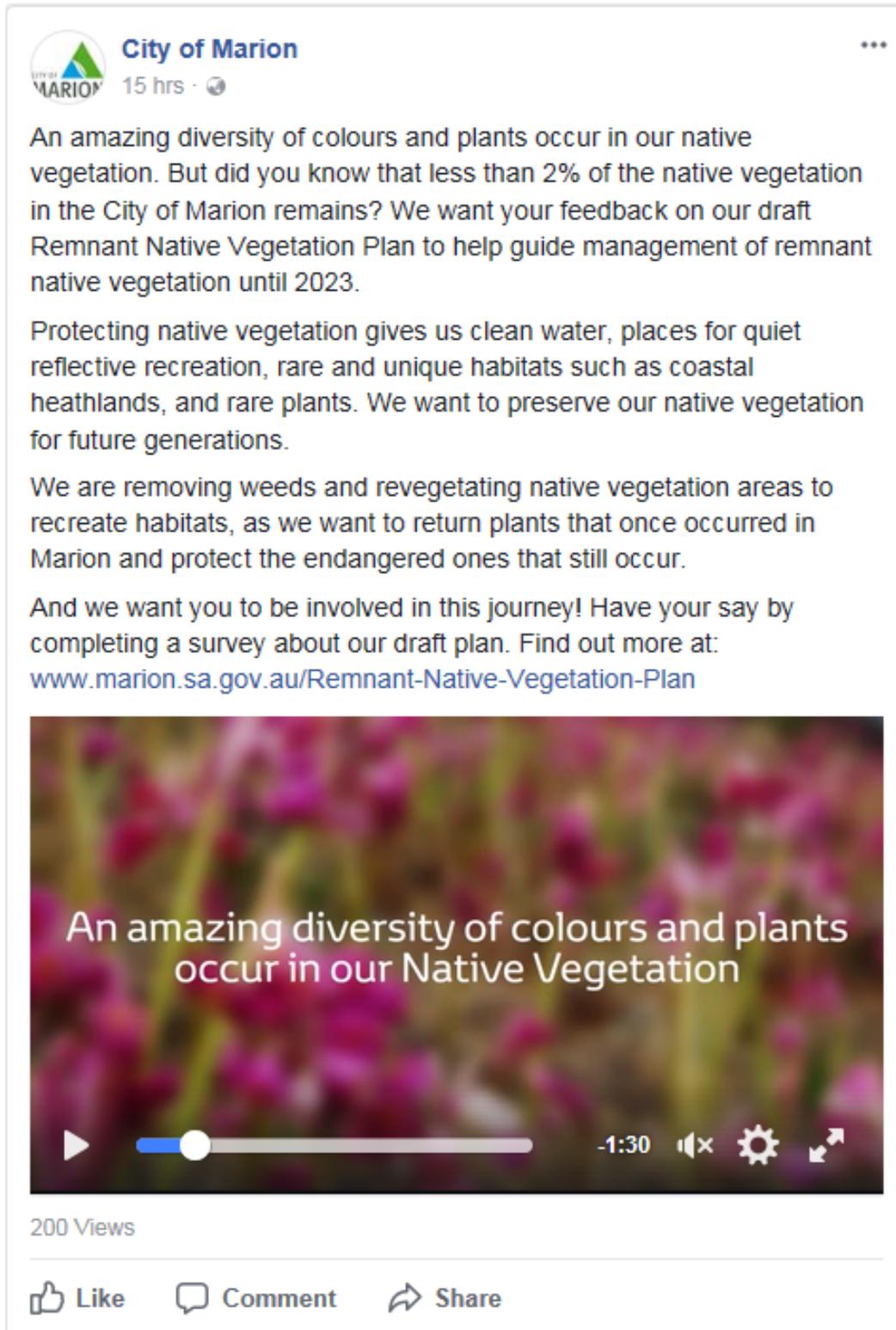
## 4.2. Survey Responses

34 on-line surveys were received. Copies of the on-line survey and all social media posts related to the survey are included in section 4.3 to 4.5. See below for the results of the survey.



### 4.3. Social Media

#### 4.3.1. City of Marion Facebook Post (20/11/2017)



**City of Marion** 15 hrs · 🌐

An amazing diversity of colours and plants occur in our native vegetation. But did you know that less than 2% of the native vegetation in the City of Marion remains? We want your feedback on our draft Remnant Native Vegetation Plan to help guide management of remnant native vegetation until 2023.

Protecting native vegetation gives us clean water, places for quiet reflective recreation, rare and unique habitats such as coastal heathlands, and rare plants. We want to preserve our native vegetation for future generations.

We are removing weeds and revegetating native vegetation areas to recreate habitats, as we want to return plants that once occurred in Marion and protect the endangered ones that still occur.

And we want you to be involved in this journey! Have your say by completing a survey about our draft plan. Find out more at: [www.marion.sa.gov.au/Remnant-Native-Vegetation-Plan](http://www.marion.sa.gov.au/Remnant-Native-Vegetation-Plan)

An amazing diversity of colours and plants occur in our Native Vegetation

200 Views

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

### 4.3.2. City of Marion Facebook Post (30/11/2017)

 **City of Marion** added 4 new photos. ...  
Yesterday at 11:15am · 🌐

Nesting Hooded Plovers have been spotted in Hallett Cove on the sand dunes at the mouth of the Field River. These vulnerable birds have been at this site since mid-October, appearing to be very happy in their new home.

It is thought that the dunes are being used by the Hooded Plovers to raise their young, with the rocky areas providing protection from people and dogs which are the greatest threat to this bird causing them to abandon their nests. If you happen to see them, please watch from afar and make sure your dog is on a lead to help protect the species.

If you are interested in the protection of precious Remnant Native Vegetation to help birds such as the Hooded Plover, please have your say on our current consultation about our Remnant Native Vegetation Plan. Find out more at: [www.marion.sa.gov.au/remnant-native-vegetation-plan](http://www.marion.sa.gov.au/remnant-native-vegetation-plan)

 John Cobb



 Like  Comment  Share

### 4.3.3. Friends of Sturt River Landcare Post (21/11/2017)



**Friends of Sturt River Landcare**  
8 hrs · 🌐

Did you realise that only 2% of the original vegetation cover of Marion now remains? Council has released its draft plan to manage and protect what is left and target sites (such as some of the reserves along the river) that have opportunities for greening up for biodiversity in the future.

The draft Remnant Vegetation Plan 2018-2023 is now open for community comment on the Making Marion website. Register, then log in to the site to have your say on this important plan.



**Remnant Native Vegetation Plan**

The City of Marion has developed a draft Remnant Native Vegetation Plan to help guide management of remnant native vegetation until 2023.

[MAKINGMARION.COM.AU](http://MAKINGMARION.COM.AU)

## 4.4. Website Project Update



[Home](#) > [Remnant Native Vegetation Plan](#)

### Remnant Native Vegetation Plan

*The City of Marion has developed a draft Remnant Native Vegetation Plan to help guide management of remnant native vegetation until 2023.*

The City of Marion has developed a *draft* Remnant Native Vegetation Plan.

Community feedback is invited on the *draft* plan by completing a survey by Tuesday 5 December.

View a video, browse the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 to 2023 and fill out a survey on the [Making Marion website](#).

 Like 119 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

 Tweet

#### 4.5. Making Marion On Line Survey

How important do you think it is to protect Remnant Native Vegetation in the City of Marion? \*

	Very important	Fairly important	Important	Slightly important	Not at all important
Level of importance	<input type="radio"/>				

What is your level of support for the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan ? \*

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Level of support	<input type="radio"/>				

Rank the following actions from the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan from the most important to the least important. (1 being the most important to 8 being the least important). \*

Weed Control

Fencing and Access Control

Vegetation Condition Monitoring

Rare Plant Conservation Programs

Signs

Website and Education Material

Volunteer Support

Firebreak Management

Do you have any comments about the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan? \*

Yes

No