

Local Biodiversity Strategy

July 2025


Welcome – Help yourself to food
SHIRE OF AUGUSTA
MARGARET RIVER

Purpose for tonight

To address concerns with the current draft Local Biodiversity Strategy with the broad community

So we can,

Make sure our planning and operations protect biodiversity in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River



Listening to you (1)

Please fill out the short survey so we can get sense of what you think



Listening to you (2)

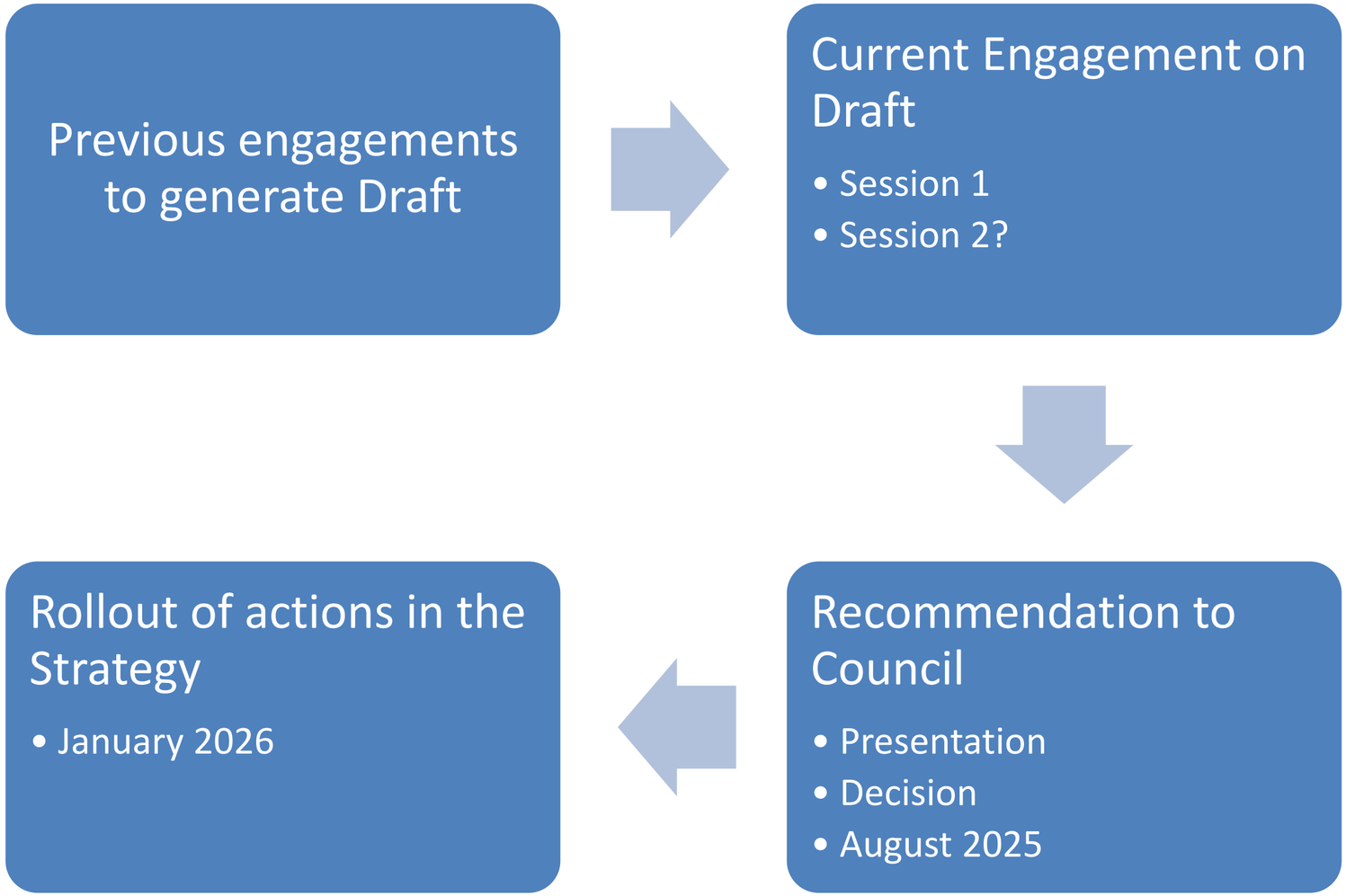
At your tables:

“Share how you connect with biodiversity in your home”





Map of the whole process



The map for tonight

Listening to you

Getting Clear on the Draft – Part 1: Biodiversity Concepts and Background

Presentation

Questions/Answers

Getting Clear on the Draft – Part 2: Parts of the Strategy and How does it try to do it?

Presentation: Strategies A to H

Question/Answers

Getting Clear on the Draft – Part 3: How does the strategy impact key groups?

Presentation

Question/Answers

Improving the Strategy

- *What are the areas where we disagree? What would make it acceptable to everyone?*
- *What are your best suggestions for improving the Strategy?*
- *What can you do?*
- *What can we do?*

Our Roles for Tonight

Georgina – *Facilitate: help the room achieve the purpose of tonight in line with Shire Engagement Policy (time keep, keep us productive etc)*

Hayley, Andrea, Matt – *provide specialty advice and information.*

Rob, others - *Help facilitate at a table level*

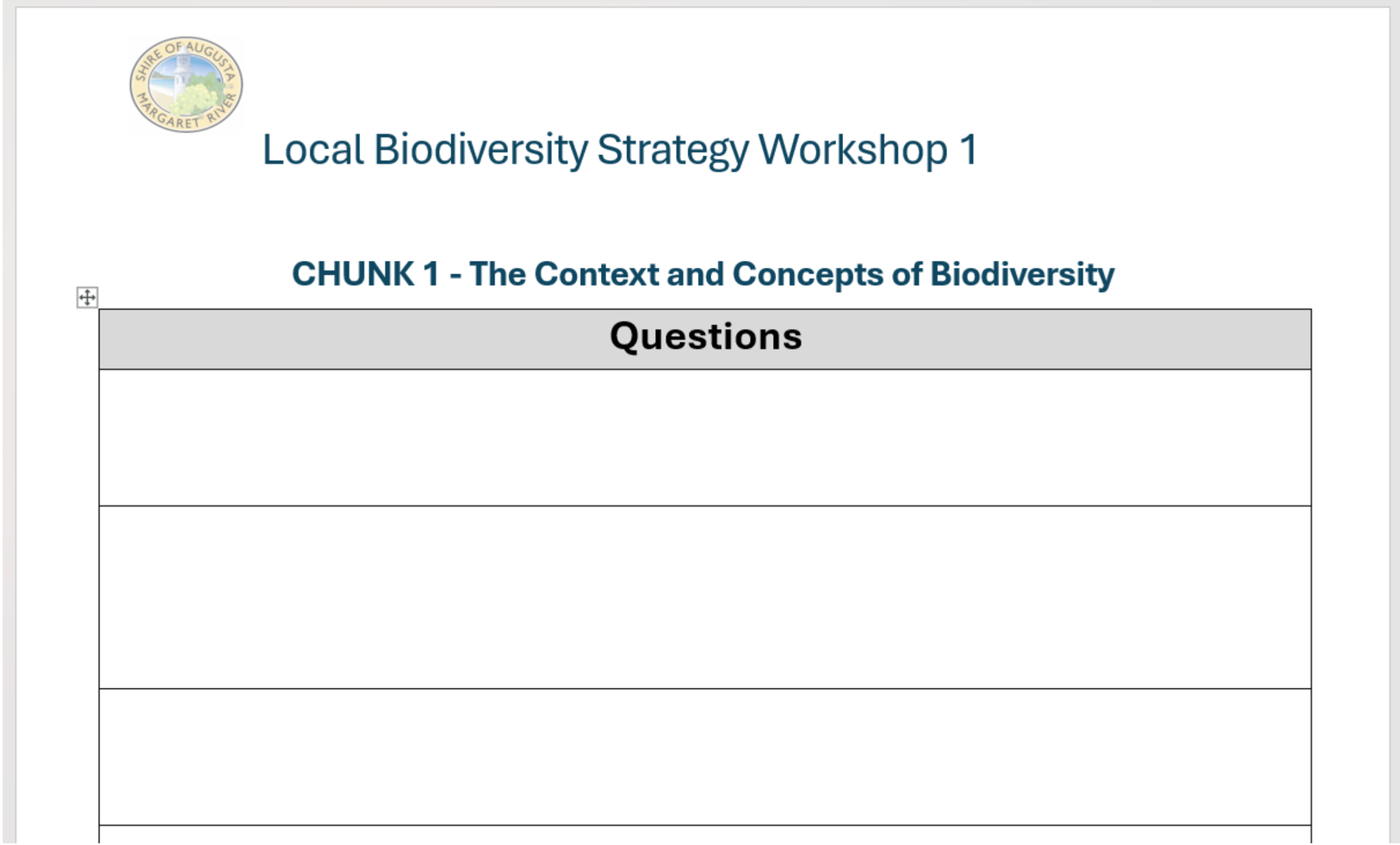
Our Way of being for Tonight

Everyone in the Room should focus on trying to be:

- ***Respectful***
- ***Curious***
- ***Aware***

Capturing your thoughts and questions

Feel free to write questions as things go as well as at planned times.



Local Biodiversity Strategy Workshop 1

CHUNK 1 - The Context and Concepts of Biodiversity

Questions

Where are we?

The success of this strategy requires partnership between all the land holders – both private and local government.

The draft Strategy talks about how the Shire goes about working towards outcomes on private and public land.

We are bringing the draft to the community because:

- *We have heard that there are concerns from parts of the community about what the Strategy could mean in practice.*

- *We have a more detailed strategy now we would like to reengage with everyone about the Draft.*



What are the Parts?

Acknowledge different levels of knowledge in the room



Strategy Part 1 - Biodiversity: What is it?

The variety of all living things such as plants, animals, fungi, micro-organisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form.



Very little Biodiversity

- *Kikuyu Grass, insects, worms, humans.*
- *Simple relationships.*
- *High inputs of water, fertilizer, herbicides, mowing, aeration from humans.*
- *Very robust to sport, predictable surface, predictable maintenance.*



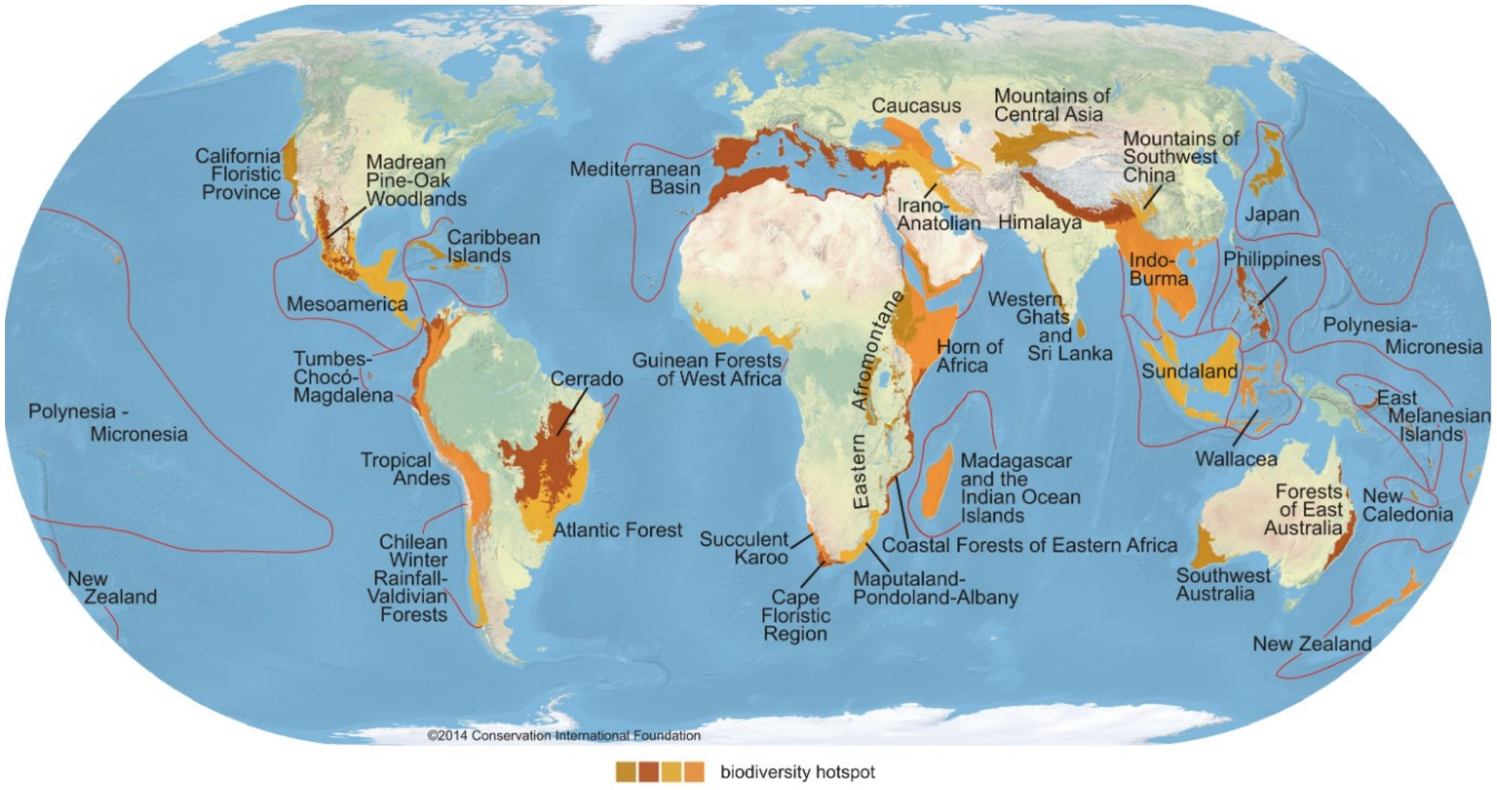
Very high Biodiversity

- *Multiple species of trees, shrubs, grasses, fungi, insects, mammals, birds etc.*
- *Complex relationships.*
- *Low/no human inputs.*
- *Very poor for sport, unpredictable surface and self maintaining.*



Part 1: Biodiversity Hotspot: What is it?

*An area of **unique** biodiversity that is **also** under threat.*



Conservation International (conservation.org) defines 35 biodiversity hotspots — extraordinary places that harbor vast numbers of plant and animal species found nowhere else. All are heavily threatened by habitat loss and degradation, making their conservation crucial to protecting nature for the benefit of all life on Earth.

Part 1: Biodiversity Hotspot:

Welcome to the South-West Australia Biodiversity Hotspot

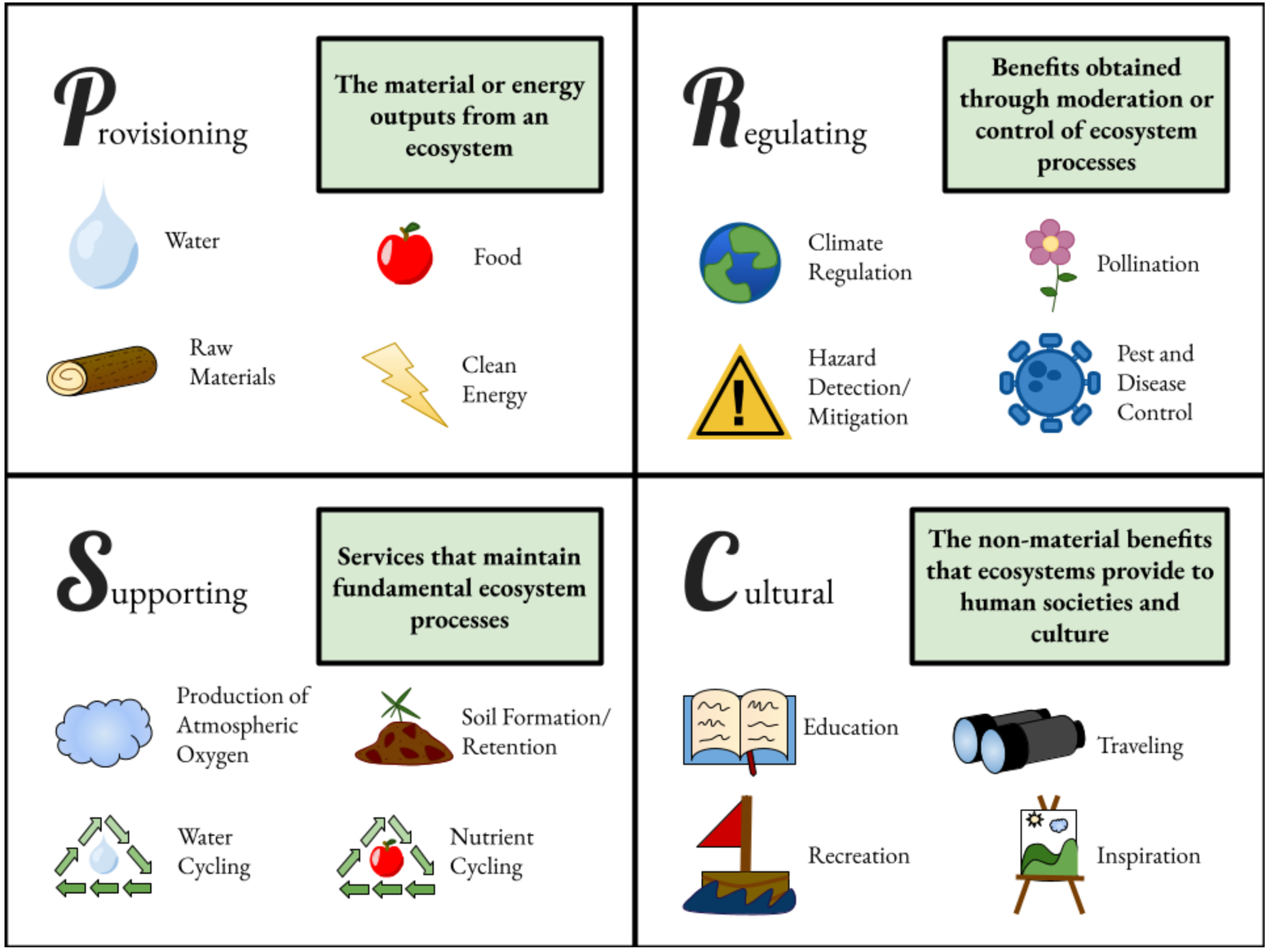


https://theconversation.com/australias-south-west-a-hotspot-for-wildlife-and-plants-that-deserves-world-heritage-status-54885



Part 1: Biodiversity: What does it do?

Biodiversity provides these ***ecosystems services***



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecosystem_services

Questions and Answers: Part 1 - Biodiversity concepts

Take a minute to write some questions you have about the above material we have covered on the sheets provided.



Questions and Answers: Part 1 - Biodiversity concepts

Share your questions with others at the table.

See if there are common questions.



What is your level of agreement with this part of the Plan?

- *Can you ‘live’ with this part?*

- *If not, what would it take to get to a place where you could?*



Part 2:
The Local Biodiversity Strategy: What does it try to do?

Guide the protection, enhancement and management of local natural areas across the Shire.

Specifically, improve how biodiversity is considered in:

- Shire operations;
- Supporting community, stakeholders and landholders in biodiversity initiatives.



Part 2: The Strategy: How does it try to do it?

Through 6 Strategies for high priority LNA's….

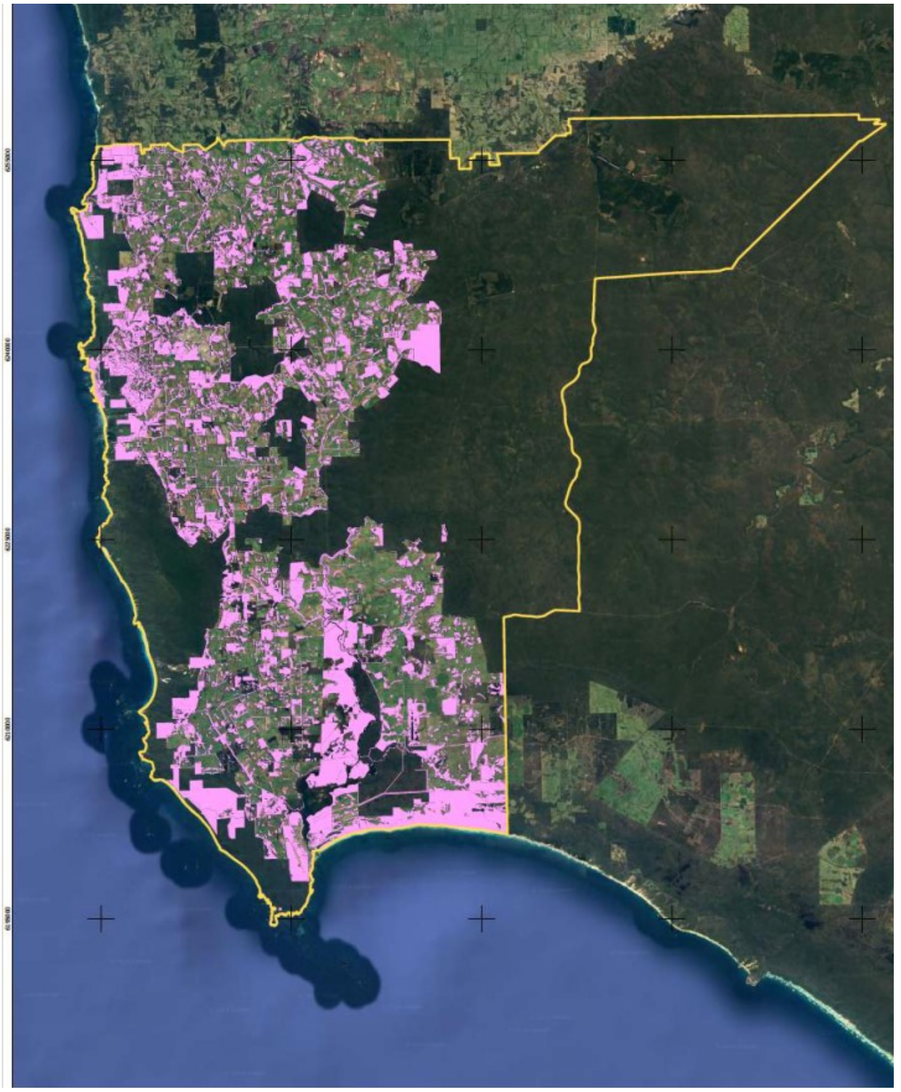
What are LNAs?

Local **N**atural **A**reas - areas containing remnant native vegetation,

(excluding DBCA lands).

Approximately 26% of land within the Shire is a Local Natural Area.

LNA's are scored using 28 criteria to find out how valuable they are to the biodiversity hotspot. The higher the score the more effort should be prioritized toward it



Part 2: What are the six Strategies for high priority LNA's?

A 10 year program ….



(C) Protection and enhance links between LNAs



(D) Work with partners

(E) Foster community understanding, respect and stewardship for the environment



(B) Improve the existing LNAs



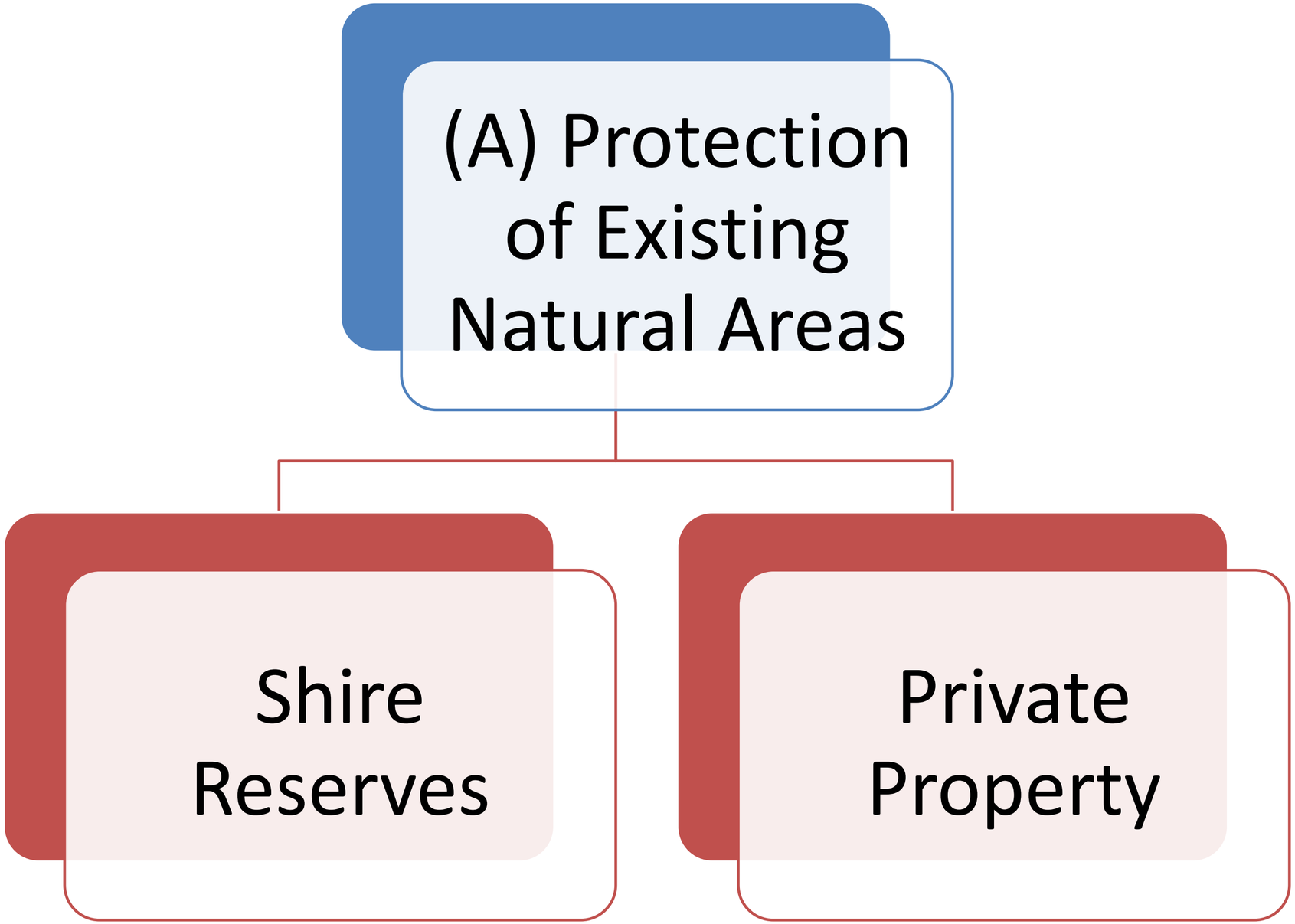
(A) Protect the existing LNAs



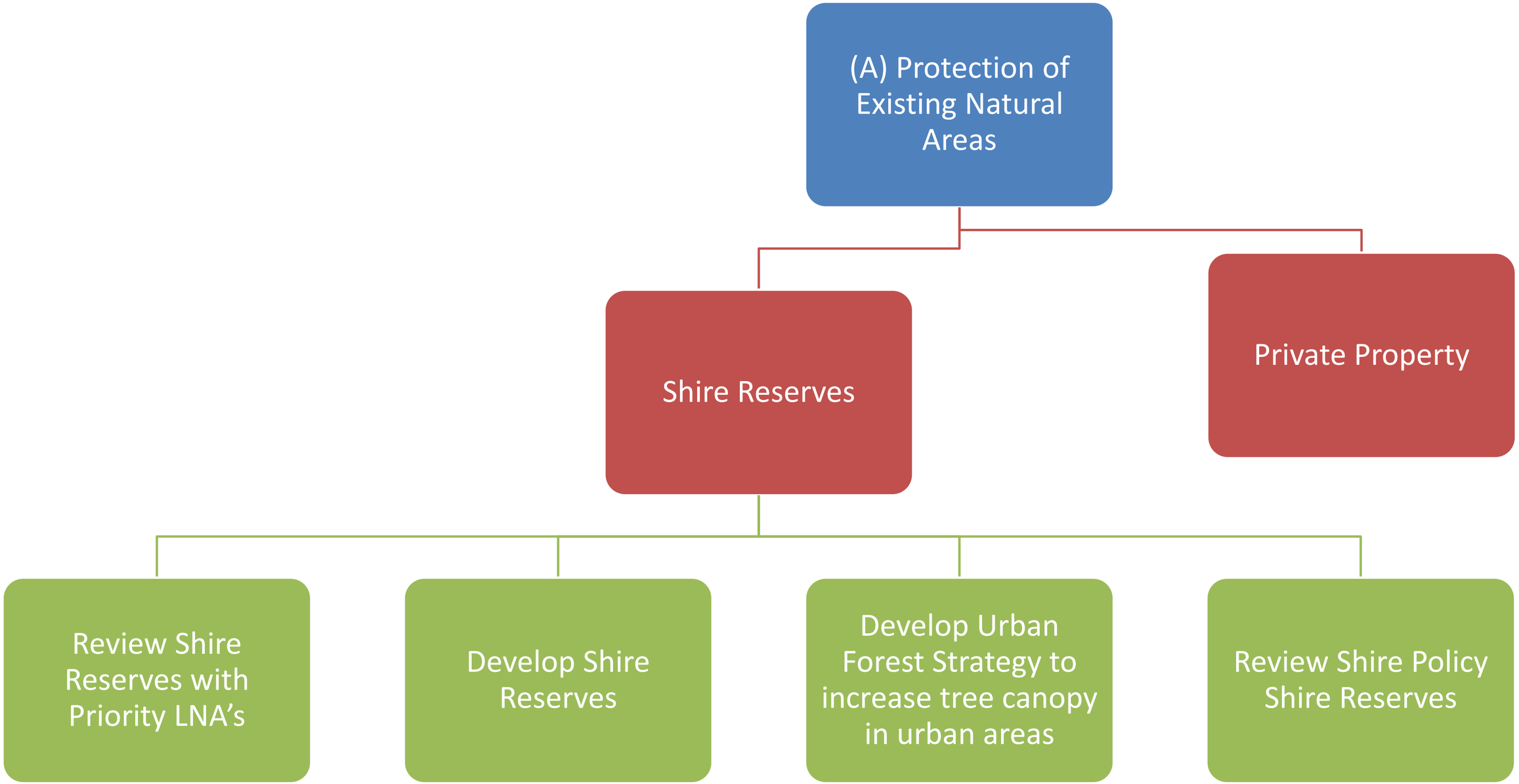


(F) Mainstream biodiversity in Shire operations and decision making

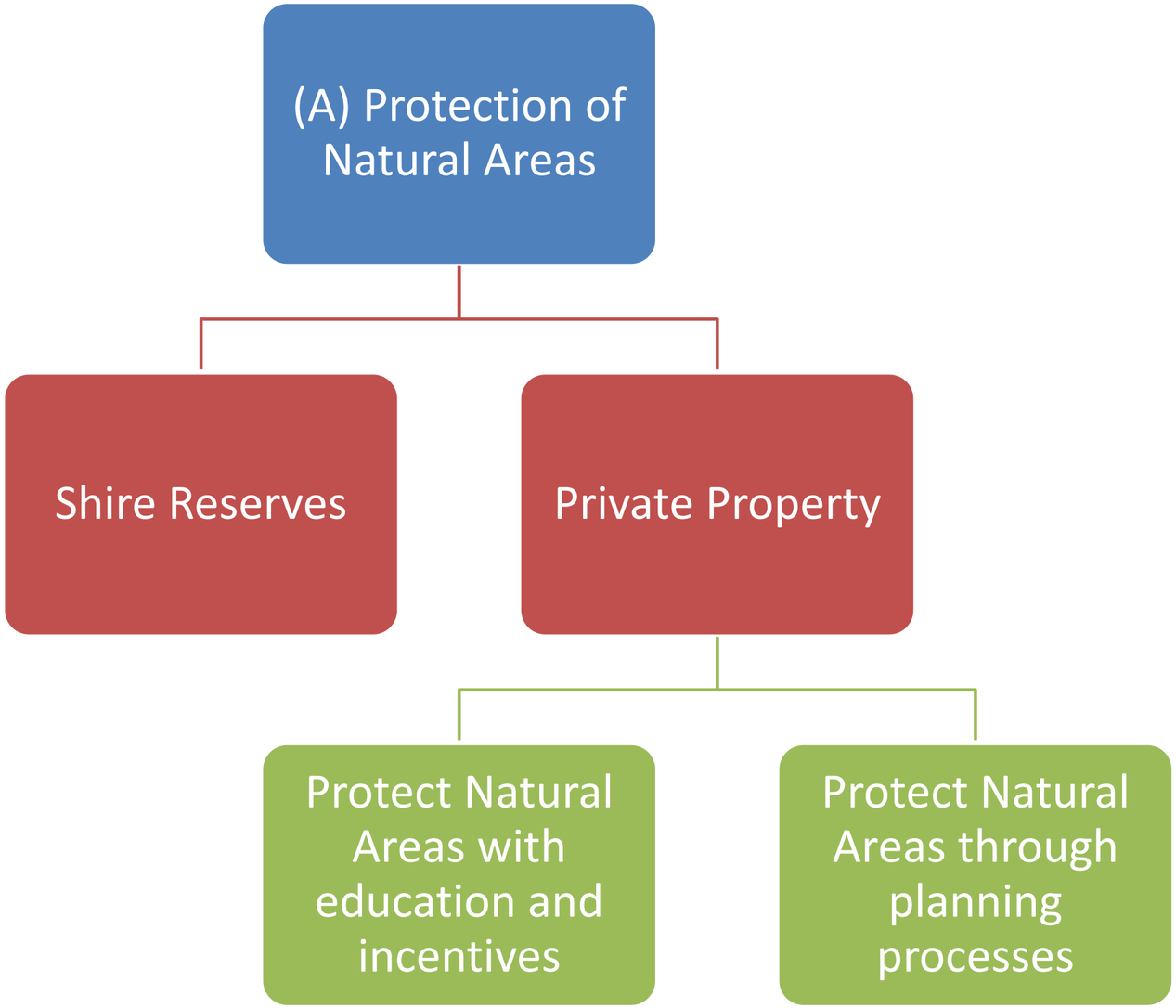
Part 2: Strategy A: How does it try to do it?



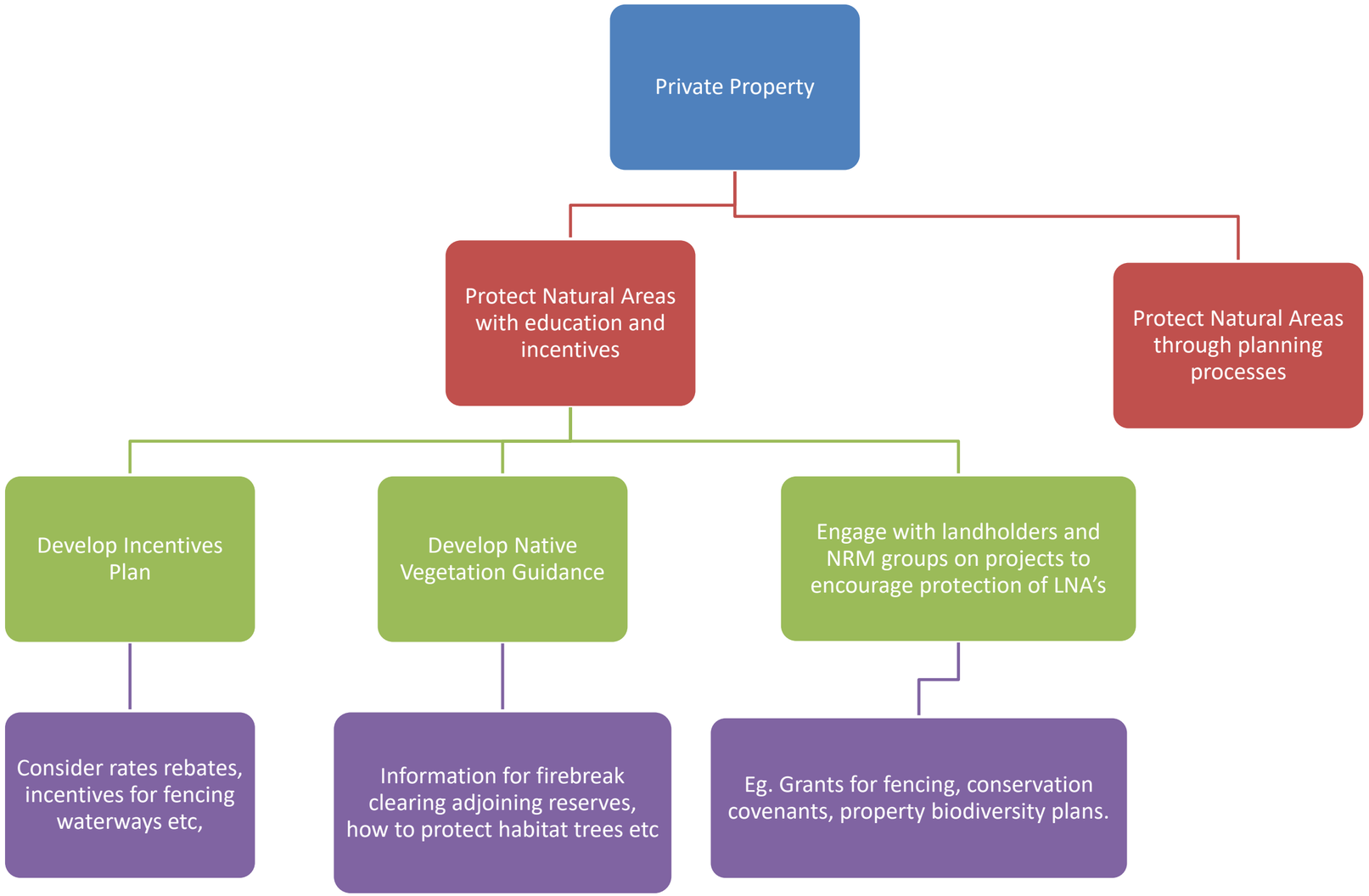
Part 2: Strategy A: Protection of Natural Areas



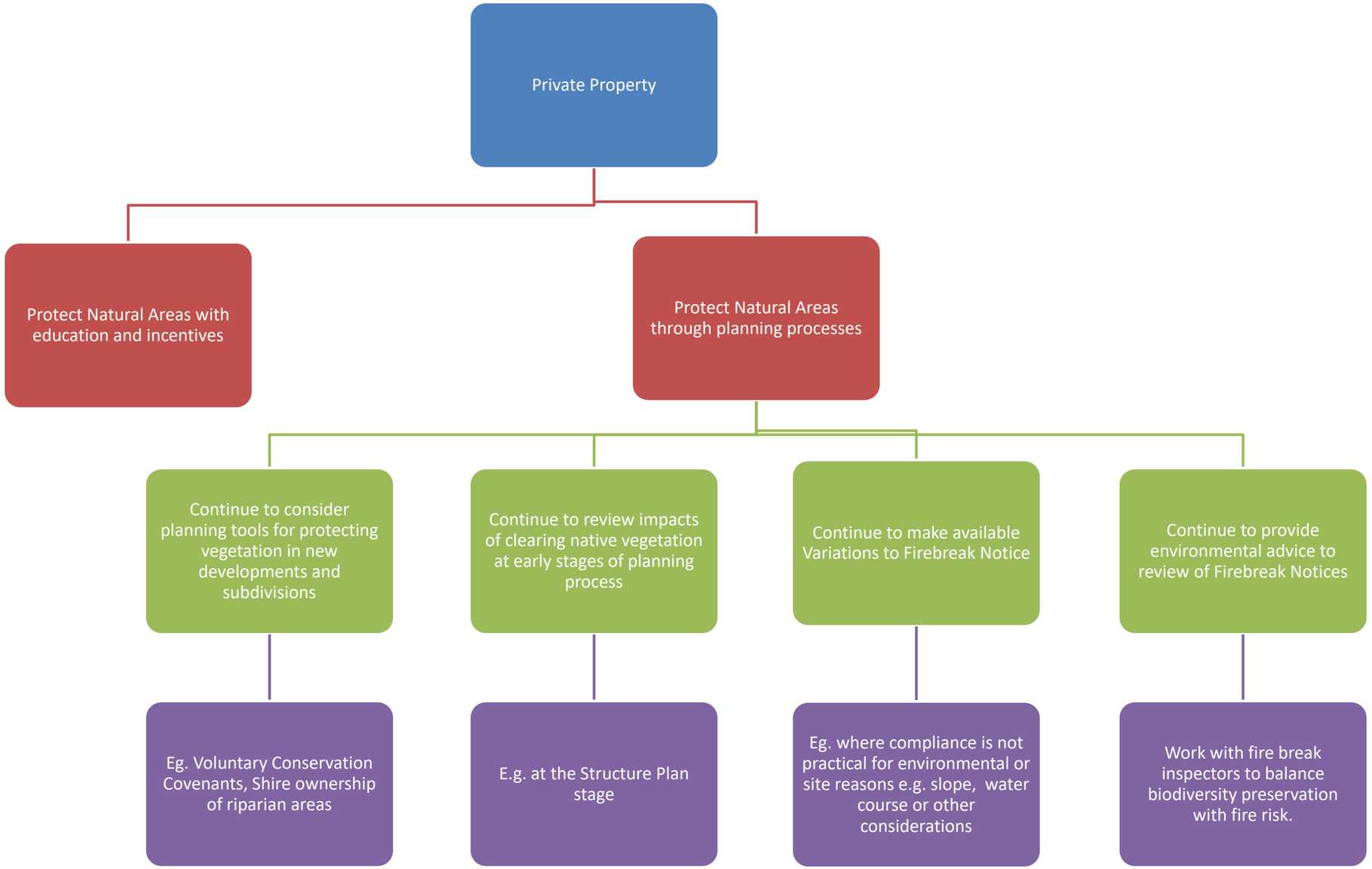
Part 2: Strategy A: Protection of Natural Areas



Part 2: Strategy A: Protection of Natural Areas



Part 2: Strategy A: Protection of Natural Areas



Questions and Answers: Part 2 – Strategy A

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Questions and Answers: Part 2 – Strategy A

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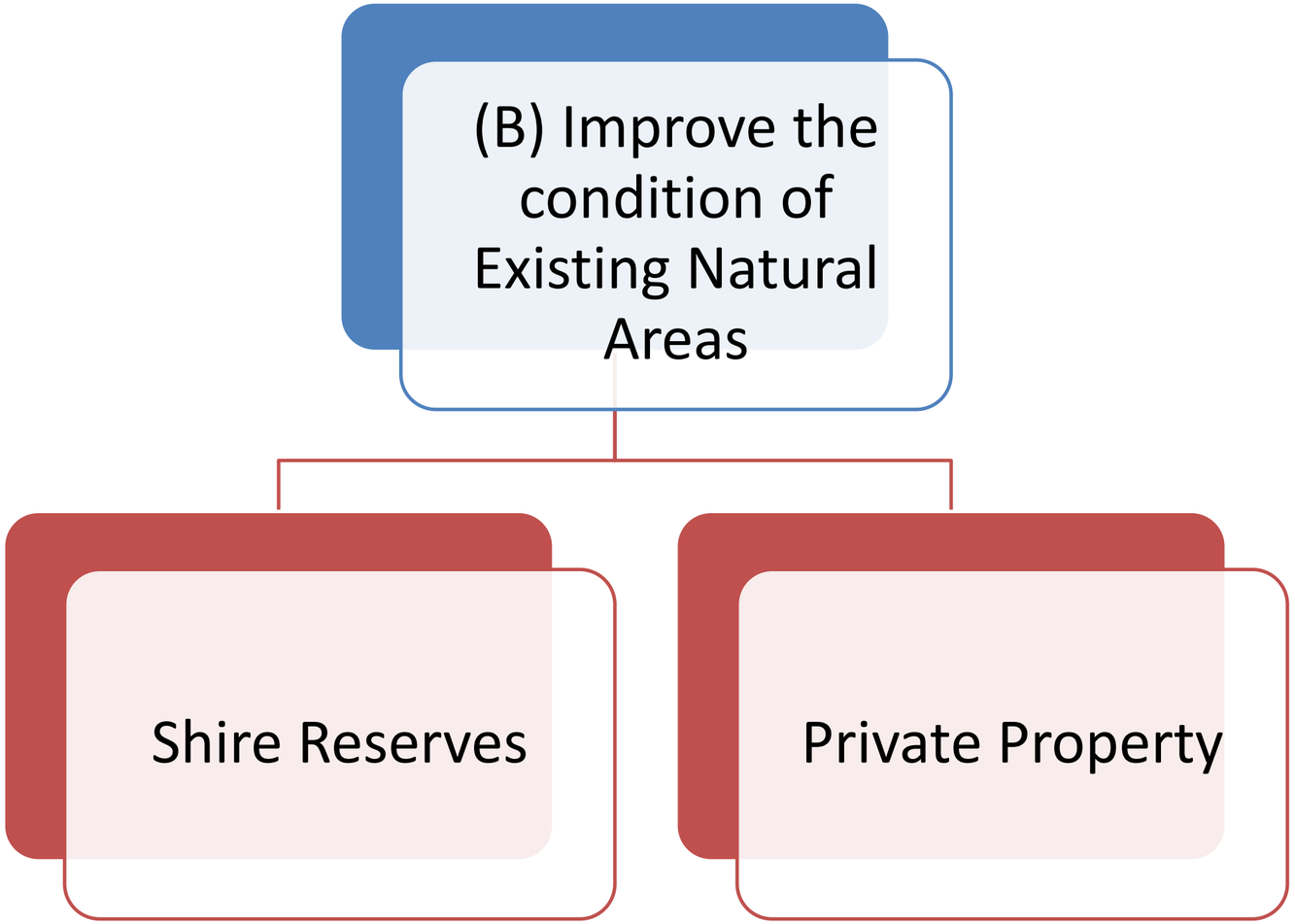
What is your level of agreement with this part of the Plan?

Can you ‘live’ with this part?

If not, what would it take to get to a place where you could?



Part 2: Strategy B: How does it try to do it?



Part 2: Strategy B: How does it try to do it?

(B) Improve the condition of Existing Natural Areas

Shire Reserves

Private Property

- Reserve Planning and Management
- Biodiversity Data Management
- Visitor and Access Management
- Weed Management
- Feral and Domestic Animals
- Pathogens, Pests and Disease
- Fire Risk Mitigation
- Revegetation and Rehabilitation
- Significant Flora Fauna and Ecological Communities
- Water Resources

Part 2: Strategy B: How does it try to do it?

Shire Reserves

Reserve Planning and Management	Biodiversity Data Management	Visitor and Access Management	Weed Management	Feral and Domestic Animals	Pathogens, Pests and Disease	Fire Risk Mitigation	Revegetation and Rehabilitation	Significant Flora Fauna and Ecological Communities	Water Resources
Establish a specialist Natural Areas Team and create plans for Reserves	Gather, improve and record data on Natural Areas and their threats (e.g. weed mapping)	Investigate ways to reduce access pressure on reserves (install fences, signage, rehab tracks)	Implement weed control programs to reduce pressure on priority Natural Areas in reserves.	Participate in strategic pest control programs with partners, e.g. fox, cat, pig, rabbit Encourage responsible pet ownership	Monitor signs and extent of pathogens/disease, and undertake mapping in priority Natural Areas in reserves, e.g. dieback.	Environment Team to collaborate with the Shire Community Emergency Team, and seek advice from NRM groups, Friends groups, Cultural Custodians on fire risk mitigation practices on Shire reserves	Work with cultural custodians, Rangers, Friends and NRM groups on revegetation projects on reserves	Work with existing partners to help threatened and priority species (e.g. Birdlife, DBCA, Owl Friendly Margaret River)	Restore River Foreshore Zones, consider access to foreshore water abstraction.

Part 2: Strategy B: How does it try to do it?

(B) Improve the condition of Existing Natural Areas

Shire Reserves

Private Property

Partnerships

Planning processes

Part 2: Strategy B: How does it try to do it?

Private Property

Partnerships

- Support cross tenure programs to counter key threats to the region (Arum Lily Blitz, feral animal controls)
- Support collaborative projects on high value land (e.g. land already under covenants or zoned for conservation)
- Support community and industry led programs for sustainable agriculture and sustainable wine growing initiatives.

Planning processes

- Continue incorporating water sensitive urban design into new subdivisions.
- Develop landscaping guidelines for new subdivisions including native planting lists.
- Require best practice management principles to be used when assessing dam applications to protect waterways (e.g. low flow bypasses)
- Continue to implement Erosion and Sediment Local Law by raising awareness of responsibilities with builders to manage run off and inspect sites prior to winter.

Questions and Answers: Part 2 – Strategy B

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Questions and Answers: Part 2 – Strategy B

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