

Please find below my answers to questions on notice as requested:

How well do we work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and do we see nature based tourism as a growth area?

We work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service on an as needs basis given there are no national parks within the Albury LGA. We do however work collaboratively with them with regard to product development of Parks located elsewhere in the region through our membership of the Murray Region Tourism board.

Is environmental tourism a growing market for Albury?

Yes. Feedback from visitors to our Visitor Information Centre suggests growing interest in environmental and nature based tourism. For example - Nail Can Hill near Albury displays a myriad of indigenous plant species that once flourished across the region and which are now protected by legislation in this reserve. This area is adored by orchid enthusiasts, who can find more than 40 different species flowering from May to December. Areas such as Wonga Wetlands, home to more than 150 species of birdlife, are also becoming increasingly popular. Already receiving in excess of 11,000 visitors per annum, the wetlands are located adjacent to the Murray River on more than 500 hectares of Council owned land and have been identified by AlburyCity as key nature based tourism product suitable for further development. A masterplan to guide product development at the wetlands is currently being finalised.

Whether AlburyCity has interaction with other Departments, if so, how does that relationship operate?

AlburyCity has interaction with a range of State Government Departments. Some of those relationships are formal by way of working parties or committees, others are officer to officer and function on an as needs basis.

Does Albury have a market for short-term holiday letting and is this an issue for our area and does it offer any benefit?

There are a range of properties available in Albury for short term holiday letting, with new properties coming on line on a regular basis. There is a market demand for this type of property, particularly from business travellers or contractors working in the region for extended periods and from families who attend week long sports and recreation events. There is always benefit in ensuring your product offer meets market demand, which short term holiday letting definitely provides, however in the event there is an oversupply it can make it difficult for property owners to obtain the return on investment they desire. There is also arguably a negative impact on existing accommodation properties which have to invest significantly more capital to enter the market than an individual residence owner.

If any further information is required in relation to the answers provided please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Tracey Squire
AlburyCity - Director Economic Development & Tourism