



BANYULE ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

*protecting and enhancing
our local environment*



1997

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BACKGROUND

Banyule's environment has many attributes which present our locality as a desirable place for our community to live and work within. It is an urban municipality located to the north-east of Melbourne which incorporates a diverse range of environmental assets. The Banyule City municipality was established in 1994 with a population of approximately 116,000 people and an area of 63 square kilometres.

Our natural environment includes valuable features such as bushland, waterways and parklands which support a diversity of plants and wildlife and offer a range of recreational opportunities. Our built environment incorporates landscape features offering pleasant surroundings while also providing facilities appropriate for the needs of our community.

Banyule faces many of the environmental issues typical of urban municipalities, such as the impacts of development, traffic and pollution, and also has special needs for the protection of its unique environmental assets.

Banyule Council recognises the values of our local environment and provides commitment towards its enhancement.

"Banyule has many unique features which are highly valued by both residents and visitors.

We will protect and enhance the distinctive characteristics of our diverse environment."

from Banyule City Plan 1997-2000

Following from this strategic direction, the *Banyule Environment Policy and Strategy* provides a framework for Council and our community in protecting and enhancing our local environment. Its development incorporates a review of conservation strategies previously adopted for the Heidelberg, Diamond Valley and Eltham areas, recognising the community involvement in their preparation, but also reflecting the resources and requirements of our new municipality.

The *Banyule Environment Policy and Strategy* establishes an important focus for ensuring a coordinated approach in addressing environmental issues and identifying opportunities for enhancing the character of our local environment.



Banyule
CITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT POLICY SUMMARY

protecting and enhancing our local environment

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Protecting flora and fauna

- to ensure the diversity of Banyule's indigenous flora and fauna is conserved

Enhancing habitat

- to enhance Banyule's natural environment as habitat for indigenous wildlife and provide for its ecological sustainability

Waterways and wetlands

- to recognise the value of waterways and wetlands as major assets of Banyule's environment and to protect and enhance their natural amenity

Parks and reserves

- to manage Banyule's parks and reserves as major assets of our community and for the benefit of our natural environment

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Landscape amenity

- to recognise the contribution of vegetation cover to Banyule's environment and to protect and enhance the amenity of our diverse landscape values

Heritage structures and sites

- to recognise and encourage links between Banyule's heritage and the environment

Building design and infrastructure

- to encourage development within Banyule sympathetic with our environment and consistent with the needs of our community

Planning for the future

- to plan for the future sustainability of Banyule's environment

RESOURCES, WASTE AND POLLUTION

Conserving resources

- to encourage the efficient and sustainable use of resources within Banyule

Minimising waste

- to prevent the unnecessary production of waste within Banyule

Controlling pollution

- to minimise the impacts of pollution on Banyule's environment

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

Promoting our environment

- to increase awareness of the values of Banyule's environment and of requirements for its protection and enhancement

Supporting community involvement

- to provide support and create opportunities for community involvement in protecting and enhancing Banyule's environment

IMPLEMENTING THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Integrated approach

- to develop and facilitate an integrated approach towards managing Banyule's environment

Monitoring progress

- to monitor the progress of Banyule's environment strategy and be accountable for its implementation

Reviewing the strategy

- to review Banyule's environment strategy in accordance with changes in priorities of our environment and the attitudes of our community

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Protecting Flora and Fauna

Banyule's natural environment supports a diverse range of indigenous, or local native, plants and animals. Their natural habitats include forests, woodlands and wetlands in river valleys and on plains and bushland extending over undulating hills.

Some of the most significant flora includes a variety of rare herbs, lilies and grasses in bushland areas, orchids such as the Emerald Greenhood, very old specimens of River Red Gum, and rare trees such as the Studley Park Gum. Significant fauna includes breeding waterbirds and frogs in our wetlands, rare visiting birds such as the Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater, and colonies of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

The local survival of a number of indigenous species has become threatened over time through urban development and alterations in natural habitat. Animals which formerly would have been common in the area, such as kangaroos, wombats, sugar gliders, platypus and a number of forest birds, have become locally rare. The same is true for a large number of understorey plants, with formerly common species such as Nodding Greenhoods, Chocolate Lilies and Grass Trigger-plants, now rare within Banyule.

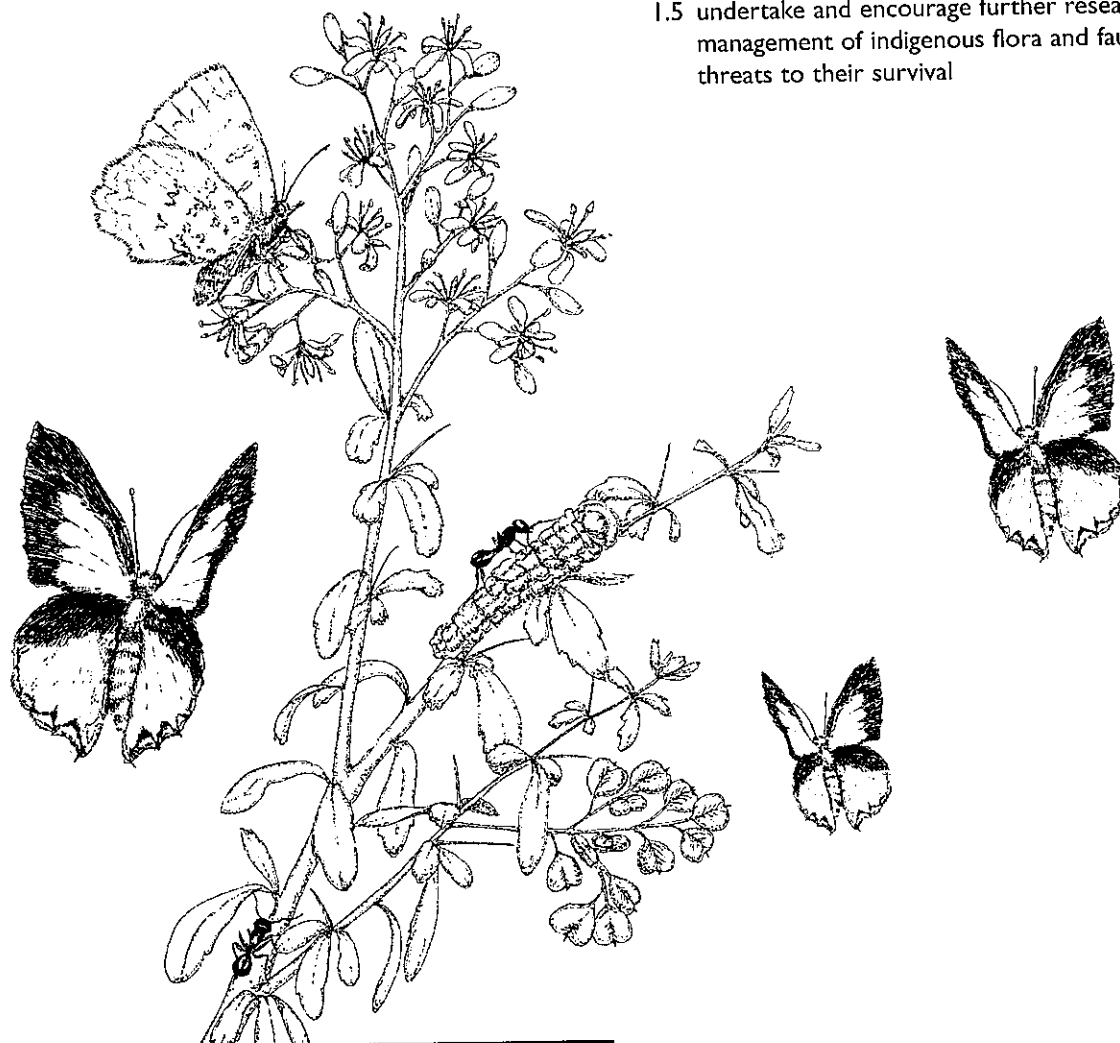
The clearing and fragmentation of natural habitat with development, impacts of introduced plants and animals, prevention of natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation, and specific habitat requirements such as the availability of tree hollows for birds and possums, are all issues which have implications for the future conservation of our biodiversity.

Policy aim

- **to ensure the diversity of Banyule's indigenous flora and fauna is conserved**

Key actions

- 1.1 undertake inventories of local flora and fauna and assess the conservation status of indigenous species and habitats
- 1.2 prevent local extinctions through the development and implementation of management programs for rare or threatened flora and fauna and for key areas of natural habitat
- 1.3 develop and implement practices to ensure threats to indigenous flora and fauna are identified and the impacts of proposed developments are appropriately assessed
- 1.4 develop and implement programs to control the impact of introduced plants and animals on indigenous flora and fauna
- 1.5 undertake and encourage further research into the management of indigenous flora and fauna and threats to their survival



2. Enhancing Habitat

A number of important areas of natural habitat for plants and animals are located within Banyule. They particularly include the indigenous vegetation along our waterways, bushland reserves and a substantial part of the Simpson Army Barracks.

Remnants of indigenous vegetation are also scattered throughout the municipality. They continue to play a vital role as habitat in the survival of our native wildlife, however, in many cases these remnants have been reduced to individual trees or small stands of trees with little or no understorey vegetation or other features of habitat value.

The rehabilitation and enhancement of remnant habitats is required to ensure the ongoing ecological sustainability of our natural environment. The creation of opportunities for the natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation is of particular importance.

Much restoration work has already been undertaken by Council and the community in the re-establishment of vegetation along our waterways and within reserves. The process is ongoing, with techniques continually being refined on how to protect and restore natural habitats. It is important to ensure opportunities for using these techniques on both public and private land are taken wherever possible for the benefit of our wildlife.

One particular requirement for ensuring the sustainability of our natural environment is the need for the provision of links between areas of natural habitat to allow for the movement and dispersal of animals and plants. These habitat links, or wildlife corridors, need to be strategically located to encompass a range of habitat types and ensure that areas of natural habitat do not become isolated.

Policy aim

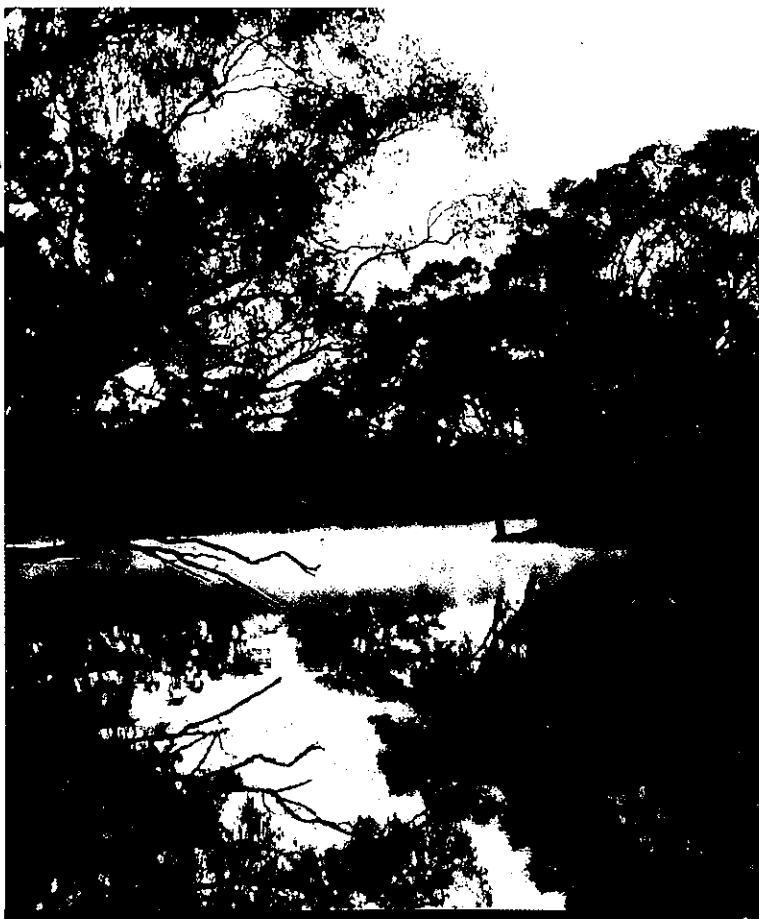
- **to enhance Banyule's natural environment as habitat for indigenous wildlife and provide for its ecological sustainability**

Key actions

- 2.1 develop and implement programs for the rehabilitation and enhancement of degraded natural habitats
- 2.2 develop and implement programs for the restoration and enhancement of strategic wildlife corridors linking areas of natural habitat
- 2.3 develop procedures and incentives for the retention and enhancement of remnant habitat on private and public land
- 2.4 identify priorities and implement practices for the re-establishment of depleted habitats

3. Waterways and Wetlands

Waterways and wetlands are features of Banyule's natural environment for our community to enjoy and wildlife to live in forming important components of the Yarra Catchment. The Yarra River, Plenty River and Darebin Creek and the parklands along them provide almost continuous corridors of vegetation linking with larger areas of natural habitat to the north and east. Many bird species in particular utilise these corridors to visit our local area. Smaller waterways such as Salt Creek and Banyule Creek offer benefits as habitat and corridors for wildlife locally.



The trails which follow our waterways provide important recreational and educational opportunities for our community and a feeling of remoteness while only a short distance from a major city.

Issues relevant to the management of our waterways include the need to provide adequate buffers from development to protect their values and the rehabilitation of the natural habitats which occur along them. The control of weeds which readily invade and spread in waterway environments requires ongoing management.

Wetlands are key components of flood plain areas, playing a vital role in the natural ecosystems associated with waterways. The network of wetlands and billabongs along the Yarra River in particular provide important feeding and breeding habitat for a diverse range of wildlife and support a variety of aquatic vegetation. Artificial wetlands can also play an important role in improving the quality of water from urban areas while enhancing our natural environment.

Policy aim

- **to recognise the value of waterways and wetlands as major assets of Banyule's environment and to protect and enhance their natural amenity**

Key actions

- 3.1 develop and implement planning procedures which protect and enhance the natural values and amenity of streamside environments and provide a buffer to the built environment
- 3.2 develop trails and interpretive signage which improve accessibility and understanding of the values of waterways and wetlands
- 3.3 develop and implement programs for the control of weeds and re-establishment of the indigenous vegetation of waterways and wetlands
- 3.4 create and take opportunities to improve the environmental values and continuity of reserves and trails along waterways
- 3.5 create and take opportunities for the establishment of wetlands for the improvement of water quality and as habitat for wildlife

4. Parks and Reserves

The amount and quality of open space provided in Banyule's parks and reserves allow our community to pursue a diverse range of recreational interests while also providing important refuges for our plants and animals. For some indigenous species recorded within Banyule, their only remaining habitat is located within parks and reserves.

The reserves along our roadsides, waterways and railway also play an important role in enhancing the quality of our natural environment, particularly in protecting habitat remnants, providing a continuity of vegetation cover, and allowing for links between areas of natural habitat both locally and in a regional context.

Parks and reserves offer opportunities to achieve ecological sustainability through the appropriate management of remnant habitats and creation of additional habitat areas, while also meeting the recreational needs of our community and providing an important educational resource.

Policy aim

- **to manage Banyule's parks and reserves as major assets of our community and for the benefit of our natural environment**

Key actions

- 4.1 develop and implement management plans for the protection and enhancement of natural values within parks and reserves and integration with recreational uses
- 4.2 develop and implement management practices which ensure the ecological sustainability of indigenous vegetation and natural habitat within parks and reserves
- 4.3 adopt a policy against the planting of environmental weed species within parks and reserves as an example to the community
- 4.4 ensure staff and contractors operating within parks and reserves are aware of environmental management issues and appropriately trained in management of the natural environment
- 4.5 create and take opportunities for the establishment and designation of new reserves for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and for the linking or extension of existing reserves



THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

5. Landscape Amenity

Banyule's landscapes are characterised by a diversity of landforms and vegetation. Established urban areas have been planted with a variety of exotic and native vegetation which soften the impact of our built environment and include majestic streetscapes. Some of the more recently developed areas retain a good cover of indigenous trees which particularly enhance the natural appearance of our undulating hills, while locations in the vicinity of the Yarra's flood plain retain a rural character. The vegetation which characterises these landscapes includes many specimens of horticultural, heritage or environmental significance.

Our undulating hills offer scenic views of the Yarra Valley and include spectacular views of Melbourne and towards mountain ranges in the east.

The amenity of these landscapes is a major factor in why we choose to live in Banyule. Inappropriate overhead cabling has particularly been identified as having adverse impacts on landscape values. It is important to ensure these values are protected in the future development of our built environment and opportunities realised for their enhancement.

Policy aim

- to recognise the contribution of vegetation cover to Banyule's environment and to protect and enhance the amenity of our diverse landscape values

Key actions

- 5.1 identify the landscape values of particular areas and adopt planting policies which reflect and enhance their character
- 5.2 develop and implement procedures for the assessment of proposed developments on vegetation and landscape amenity and ensure compensation for any loss of vegetation

- 5.3 identify and provide appropriate protection for vegetation of environment, heritage or landscape significance on public and private land
- 5.4 develop and implement programs for the enhancement of streetscapes and parks with vegetation and for the appropriate replacement of vegetation lost or removed
- 5.5 develop and implement programs for the undergrounding of overhead cables to minimise impacts on landscape amenity in accordance with Council's Undergrounding of Aerial Cable Policy.

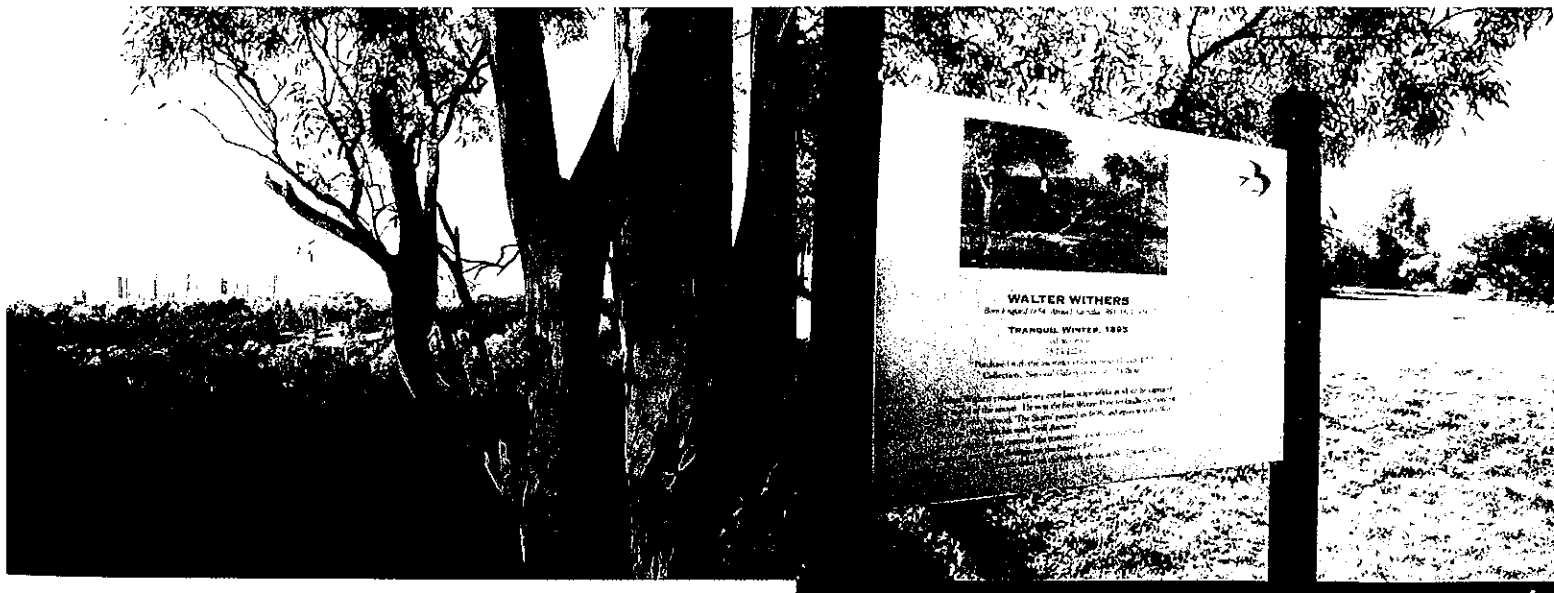
6. Heritage Structures and Sites

Banyule's heritage has close associations with the features of our environment. Waterways and wetlands provided important sources of food and materials for Aboriginal people. Scatters of artefacts, stone tools and old River Red Gum scar trees provide clues to this use over a long period.

European settlers recognised the values of the fertile flood plains, establishing pastoral properties, orchards and market gardens. Some of the stately early homesteads remain as features of our built environment today, along with the exotic vegetation planted in formal gardens or marking former property boundaries.

Many notable people have settled in or visited the area because of the values of our environment. Our landscapes in particular provided inspiration for artists from the Heidelberg School.

Recognition of the links between our environment and heritage provides valuable insight into our society. The ongoing protection of those values is vital to understanding our social development and their enhancement offers education, recreation and tourism opportunities.



Policy aim

- **to recognise and encourage links between Banyule's heritage and the environment**

Key actions

- 6.1 identify the values of heritage structures and sites and their association with our environment
- 6.2 develop and implement procedures for the assessment of proposed developments on the values of heritage structures and sites and to provide for their protection
- 6.3 encourage development in keeping with the values of heritage structures and sites and create and take opportunities for their enhancement as features of our environment

7. Building Design and Infrastructure

Banyule's development has encompassed a diverse range of architectural designs and styles which have brought character to our built environment. Notable features include residential estates designed by Walter Burley Griffin, incorporation of the landscape concepts of Ellis Stones and the village established for Melbourne's Olympic Games in 1956. Strip shopping centres are also major features of our built environment, providing visual character to our local area and vitality to our community.

It is important to ensure the design and layout of buildings reflect the characteristics we value in our built environment and do not impact on the values of our natural environment. There are opportunities for enhancing the amenity of our commercial and industrial areas in particular through appropriate design. The use of energy efficient design and water treatment techniques also offer benefits for our environment.

The layout and availability of infrastructure such as roads, public transport, shopping facilities and schools play a key role in how our community functions and our environmental amenity. They have major implications for

ensuring the efficient use of resources and particularly in the minimisation of air and noise pollution from vehicles. Vehicular traffic has a significant detrimental impact on the amenity of our residential areas and shopping precincts.

The structure and diversity of facilities within Banyule offers many opportunities for encouraging alternatives to the use of motor vehicles for transport, including walking and cycling, and also for increasing the use of public transport.

Opportunities for improving infrastructure should consider the needs of our community and the potential for enhancing our environmental amenity.

Policy aim

- **to encourage development within Banyule sympathetic with our environment and consistent with the needs of our community**

Key actions

- 7.1 identify areas appropriate for different types of development in accordance with the efficient use of infrastructure and community needs, while minimising impacts on environmental values
- 7.2 encourage the design of buildings and layout of development in a manner which will protect and enhance our environmental amenity, provide buffers to environmentally sensitive areas and promote the efficient use of resources
- 7.3 encourage and implement programs for the development of infrastructure compatible with protecting and enhancing our environment where it is identified as being deficient
- 7.4 develop and implement programs to maintain and enhance the local character of strip shopping centres and improve the amenity of other commercial and industrial areas

8. Planning for the Future

The growth of our population and associated urban development has brought many changes to our environment over a relatively short period. New technologies and approaches are continually being developed to cater for our personal needs, particularly with regard to how we communicate and travel. The way in which we utilise these advances has major implications for how we function as a society and the resources we require.

Careful planning of future development will be needed to ensure ongoing protection of the values of our environment in addressing the demands of our community and providing for its sustainability.



Policy aim

- **to plan for the future sustainability of Banyule's environment**

Key actions

- 8.1 undertake and encourage research into the social and technological requirements for the future sustainability of our environment
- 8.2 develop and implement planning policies and controls which provide for and promote the future sustainability of our environment

RESOURCES, WASTE AND POLLUTION

9. Conserving Resources

The rate at which society consumes its resources is a major issue for our environment and future well-being, particularly as the population of our planet continues to grow. Many resources, including our minerals and fossil fuels, are non-renewable and their depletion is inevitable unless alternatives are found. Similarly, many of our potentially renewable resources are being utilised at a rate higher than the rate at which they can be replenished.

The costs of finding and harvesting resources are usually high, both financially and to our environment. Impacts of the pollution produced from the utilisation of resources on our atmosphere and water are major environmental issues worldwide.

It is important that we all share some responsibility for our resource consumption and the consequences of their use by "thinking globally and acting locally". We can all help to conserve resources by minimising our consumption of energy, fuel and water and by using products developed

from sustainable sources or made from recycled materials wherever possible.

Policy aim

- **to encourage the efficient and sustainable use of resources within Banyule**

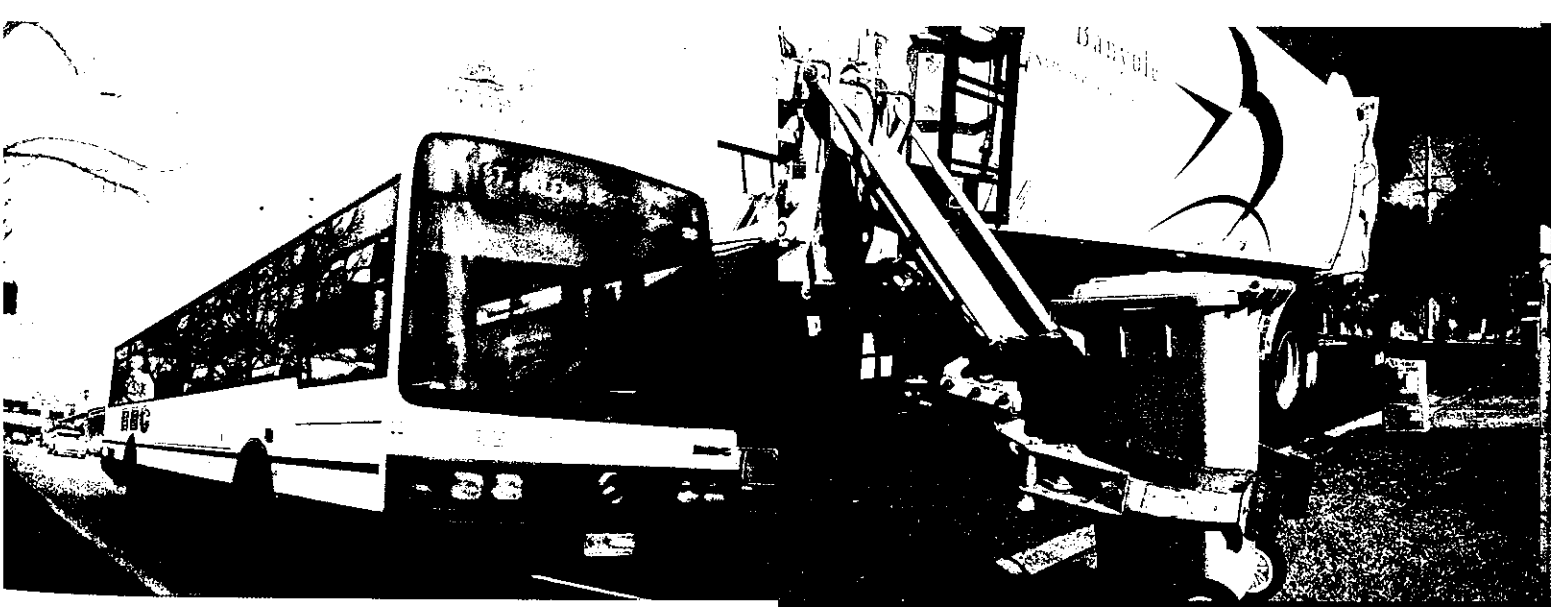
Key actions

- 9.1 develop and implement programs which promote the efficient and sustainable use of resources and alternatives to the use of non-renewable resources
- 9.2 undertake environmental audits of Council buildings and operations and implement practices to reduce resource consumption and waste as an example to other organisations and the community
- 9.3 encourage and support the development and use of energy and water efficient products and technologies

10. Minimising Waste

The amount of resources we consume has direct implications for the amount of waste we produce. As well as minimising waste by reducing the quantity of resources we use, we can also ensure that any waste we do produce is disposed of thoughtfully, particularly to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The space required for landfill and the by-products of waste disposal are ongoing costs for our community and environment.

The relatively recent development of new technologies and approaches to waste disposal allow us to recycle much of the waste we produce or utilise it in alternative ways. The collection of recyclable materials including glass, plastics, metal and paper products is a substantial part of current waste collection services. We can all help by using recyclable products and



ensuring that as much of the waste we produce is available for recycling as possible. Green-waste from food scraps and gardens continues to be a major component of the waste we produce. Techniques such as composting and mulching offer useful means of re-using this valuable organic matter.

Policy aim

- **to prevent the unnecessary production of waste within Banyule**

Key actions

- 10.1 develop and implement programs which promote recycling and the minimisation of waste
- 10.2 provide waste collection services which encourage the separation of recyclable waste and provide incentives for minimising the amount of waste produced
- 10.3 encourage and support the development of technologies and industries for the re-use and recycling of waste
- 10.4 develop and promote programs for the collection and composting of green-waste

II. Controlling Pollution

There are many potential sources of pollution within Banyule which can impact on our environmental assets and amenity. They can have adverse impacts on our atmosphere, the quality of our water, our visual amenity, our health, or simply the tranquillity of our surroundings. Most result from our utilisation of resources or the way we develop our built environment.

The greenhouse effect and stratospheric ozone depletion are environmental issues with major implications for society and future generations worldwide. It is important that we all share responsibility towards reducing the pollution which contribute to these global issues as well as minimising the pollution of our air locally.

The use of motor vehicles contributes significantly to pollution and impacts on the amenity of our environment in a number of ways. The availability of public transport and trail networks within Banyule offer valuable means of reducing our dependence on cars.

Preventing pollution from entering waterways is important in protecting our environmental values locally. Sources of waterway pollution include litter and run-off from our streets, sediment from construction sites and chemicals from drains.

Graffiti and vandalism can have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of both our built and natural environments.

Environmentally friendly products and technologies are continually being developed to minimise pollution and we should take opportunities to utilise these wherever possible. It is also important to ensure the safe use and disposal of any potentially hazardous chemicals or materials.

Policy aim

- **to minimise the impacts of pollution on Banyule's environment**

Key actions

- 11.1 develop and implement policies and controls for preventing air, noise, water and visual pollution
- 11.2 develop and implement procedures to identify and assess the threats of pollution to our environment, for the reporting of pollution and for the rehabilitation of polluted sites
- 11.3 encourage and promote alternatives to reliance on the use of private cars for transport by creating and taking opportunities for the enhancement of public transport, trail networks and infrastructure
- 11.4 adopt a policy on the use of environmentally friendly products and technologies which minimise pollution in preference to those which potentially create pollution where this can be shown to be economically viable as an example to other organisations and the community
- 11.5 develop and implement programs for the prevention of litter and sediment from entering our waterways
- 11.6 encourage and support programs for the safe disposal and collection of hazardous materials
- 11.7 ensure staff and contractors are appropriately trained in the safe handling and use of materials which are potentially hazardous to the environment



COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

12. Promoting Our Environment

Appreciation of the values of Banyule's environment and of requirements for its protection and enhancement is essential in ensuring its future sustainability. Many of the threats to our environment can be avoided if our community knows what is required and is willing to help. Opportunities for enhancing our environment particularly arise through the awareness and interest of our community.

Important ways of increasing environmental awareness include the availability of written information, provision of advice and promotions. Community activities and school education programs offer valuable opportunities for learning about our local environment.

Local tourism also has the potential to offer benefits towards the ongoing appreciation and enhancement of our environment. The availability of signage and interpretive information are important in ensuring appropriate awareness and respect for our environmental values.

Policy aim

- **to increase awareness of the values of Banyule's environment and of requirements for its protection and enhancement**

Key actions

- 12.1 develop and make available information brochures and publications promoting our environment and how to look after it
- 12.2 promote the values of our environment and relevant issues through media, displays and information sessions
- 12.3 provide information and advice on the values of our environment, methods for protecting and enhancing them and the availability of environmentally friendly products

- 12.4 develop and make available environmental education programs and activities for schools and the community
- 12.5 develop and install interpretive signage at key locations promoting our environment
- 12.6 develop and facilitate tourism opportunities for promoting our environment in a manner which is compatible with protecting and enhancing its amenity

13. Supporting Community Involvement

Banyule's community has played a major role in the protection and enhancement of our environment. A number of environmental groups have become established in the local area who have fought to protect significant sites from inappropriate development, have helped to raise community awareness of environmental issues, and have had a high level of active involvement in enhancing our parklands.

The involvement of groups such as the Warringal Conservation Society, Riverlands Conservation Society and Darebin Parklands Association over many years bear testimony to this. They have been responsible for initiating many revegetation projects in parklands along the Yarra River and Darebin Creek in particular and have played a key role in establishing local environmental features such as the Warringal Swamplands and Banyule Native Gardens.

Several new groups have formed over recent years to help enhance our local reserves, including Friends Groups for St. Helena Reserve, Yandell Reserve and the Plenty River. Local schools also play an important role in increasing the environmental awareness of our younger population, while many other community groups incorporate the local environment into their activities in a variety of ways.

Community groups and volunteers are valuable assets for our environment, particularly with regard to the sense of community ownership they foster and the diversity of skills of the people who participate. They often function with few resources but thrive on the dedication of the people involved. The value of such



involvement is well recognised and we can all help to improve our environment by participating in the activities of groups promoting its enhancement and by offering support wherever possible.

Policy aim

- **to provide support and create opportunities for community involvement in protecting and enhancing Banyule's environment**

Key actions

- 13.1 support the involvement of community groups and volunteers in protecting and enhancing our environment by providing assistance with materials, organisation and promoting activities
- 13.2 develop and provide grants programs and financial incentives encouraging the involvement of community groups, schools and individuals in protecting and enhancing our environment
- 13.3 encourage the involvement of community groups or the formation of new groups in protecting and enhancing our environment where increased involvement would be desirable

IMPLEMENTING THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

14. Integrated Approach

There are many organisations and individuals who have interests and responsibilities in managing Banyule's environment. They not only include Council, a variety of other government organisations and community groups, but also include the private businesses, industries and landowners throughout the municipality who utilise our resources or potentially impact upon our environmental amenity.

Some of the key organisations with responsibilities in managing our environment include the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, YarraCare and the Environment Protection Authority. They have prepared a range of policies and strategies relevant to our environment and many benefits and efficiencies can be achieved by ensuring consistency between these.

There are opportunities for the involvement of a variety of stakeholders in protecting and enhancing our local environment and it is important that a coordinated approach is adopted towards implementing Banyule's environment strategy. The appropriate awareness and training of workers operating within our environment is of particular importance. Council's Advisory Committees offer community representation in ongoing decision making processes relevant to the strategy.

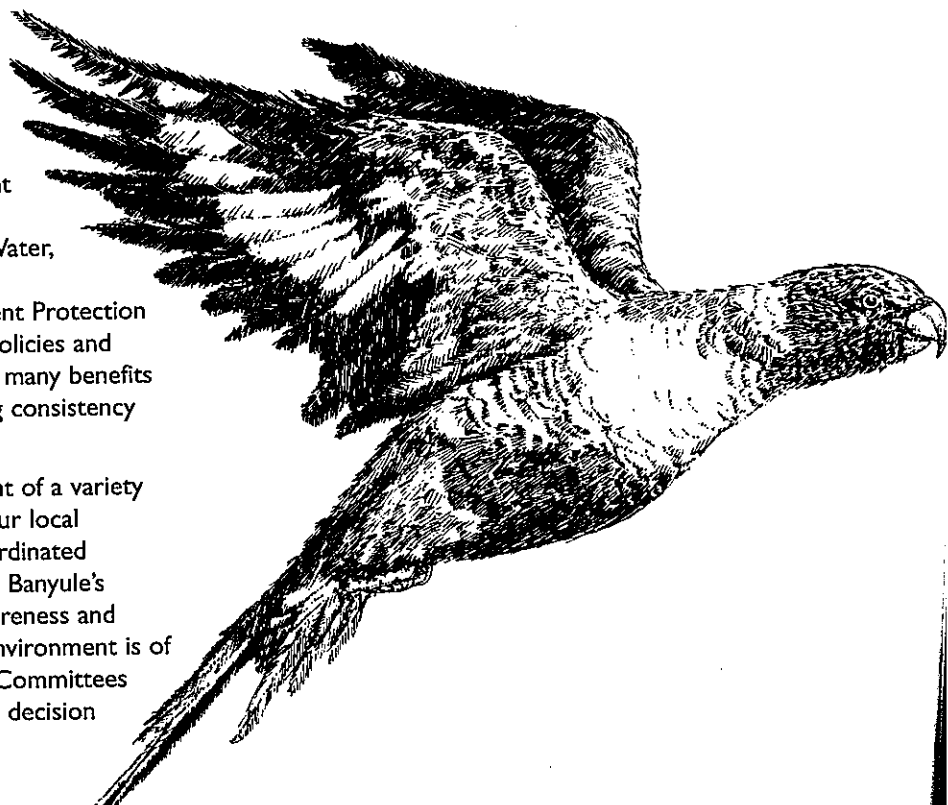
There are a range of initiatives being developed and implemented throughout the region and beyond which have implications for the protection and enhancement of Banyule's environment. The effective management of waterways, for example, requires the cooperation of all of the municipalities which occur along their length. Councils can play a key role in facilitating a consistent approach to environmental management across the region and by realising opportunities to utilise resources efficiently through regional cooperation. It is also important that we have appropriate input into relevant policies and strategies being developed by other levels of government.

Policy aim

- **to develop and facilitate an integrated approach towards managing Banyule's environment**

Key actions

- 14.1 facilitate and provide opportunities for involvement of the community and other organisations in decision making processes and feedback on the implementation of the environment strategy
- 14.2 develop and implement programs for raising awareness of staff and providing appropriate training in environmental management
- 14.3 encourage and participate in regional initiatives consistent with the environment strategy as a means of developing an integrated approach to protecting and enhancing our environment and ensuring the efficient use of resources
- 14.4 consult and liaise with governments on the need for and effects of regional, state and national policies and programs relevant to our environment



15. Monitoring Progress

The *Banyule Environment Policy and Strategy* provides clear direction for protecting and enhancing our local environment. The "key actions" presented intentionally allow for flexibility in implementation to incorporate the development of new initiatives and the availability of resources. A major component of implementing the environment strategy will involve the development and alignment of specific action programs within the framework identified.

Monitoring and accountability will be provided through the development of appropriate performance measures, identification of responsibilities and the incorporation of reporting procedures. A regular State of the Environment Report will outline achievements in the implementation of the environment strategy and identify further actions and resources required.

The incorporation of a State of the Environment reporting process is intended to provide an effective environmental management system for the Banyule Council, allowing flexibility in determining specific actions required according to environmental priorities and resources available.

Policy aim

- **to monitor the progress of Banyule's environment strategy and be accountable for its implementation**

Key actions

- 15.1 develop performance measures and identify responsibilities for the implementation of the environment strategy
- 15.2 produce an annual State of the Environment Report identifying achievements in the implementation of the environment strategy, priorities for further action and future financial requirements

16. Reviewing the Strategy

It is to be expected that priorities for protecting and enhancing our local environment will alter over time as circumstances change.

Review of Banyule's environment strategy is intended to allow for alterations which reflect the future needs of our environment and community.

Policy aim

- **to review Banyule's environment strategy in accordance with changes in priorities of our environment and the attitudes of our community**

Key action

- 16.1 review the environment strategy on a regular basis to accommodate changes in priorities for protecting and enhancing our environment

FURTHER REFERENCE

The Banyule Environment Policy and Strategy incorporates a review of the conservation strategies previously developed for the Heidelberg, Diamond Valley and Eltham areas.

- **Diamond Valley Conservation Strategy (1995)**
- **Shire of Eltham Conservation and Heritage Strategy (1993)**
- **A better environment: a local conservation strategy for the City of Heidelberg (1989)**

These documents provide important resource information for developing action programs in the implementation of Banyule's environment strategy and will be adapted according to priorities for managing our local environment.

Other key documents produced by Banyule Council or being developed with relevance to the environment strategy include:

- Banyule City Plan 1997-2000
- Municipal Strategic Statement 1997
- Open Space Strategy (1997)
- Waste Management Plan 1995/99
- Municipal Bicycle Strategic Statement 1996
- Public Health Plan Toward 1999
- Drainage Policy (1997)
- Cultural Strategy 1997-2001
- Undergrounding of Aerial Cable Policy (1996)
- Dogs (and Cats) in Public Places (1996)
- Banyule Housing Statement (1997)

National, state and regional policies and strategies also play a significant role in shaping our future and should be considered in ensuring a consistent approach to managing our environment. Some of the key documents relevant to our environment include:

ANZECC (1993)

Strategy for Ozone Protection in Australia.

Australian New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.

ANZECC (1993)

National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity.

Australian New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, Taskforce on Biological Diversity.

Beardsell, C. (1997)

Sites of Faunal and Habitat Significance in North East Melbourne.

6 Volume study prepared for the North East Regional Organisation of Councils (NEROC), Nillumbik Shire Council.

CEPA (1992)

National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy.
Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency,
Department of the Arts, Sport the Environment and Territories.

Commonwealth Department of Tourism (1994)

National Ecotourism Strategy.
Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (1992)

National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.
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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are many ways in which we can all learn about and help to improve our local environment through our actions as individuals and as a community.

Banyule Council has a range of information available on how to protect and enhance our local environment. Contact Banyule's Service Centres at Ivanhoe, Rosanna or Greensborough for further details. There are also a variety of environmental activities and information sessions organised within the municipality which you can participate in. These are regularly promoted in local newspapers or in Council's newsletter, the *Banner*.

One of the most rewarding ways of learning about and helping to improve our environment is through participation in the activities of local community groups. Environment groups regularly organise activities within the local area. Contacts are listed as follows:

DAREBIN PARKLANDS ASSOCIATION

Sue Course - 9499 6770 or 9853 2344BH
PO Box 3, Ivanhoe 3079

DONALDSONS CREEK RESERVE ASSOCIATION

Craig Langdon - 9499 5248
14 McNeil Street, West Heidelberg 3081

FRIENDS OF DAREBIN CREEK

Sue Peirce - 9389 1259
7 Wynstay Crescent, Ivanhoe 3079

FRIENDS OF NELLIE IBBOTT PARK

Sue Peirce - 9389 1259
7 Wynstay Crescent, Ivanhoe 3079

FRIENDS OF PECKS DAM

Trina McEwin - 9439 9642
5 Pedersen Way, Montmorency 3094

FRIENDS OF PLENTY RIVER

Alice and Kevin Ley - 9435 3840
1 Havelock Court, Lower Plenty 3093

FRIENDS OF ST. HELENA BUSH RESERVE

Lawrie Rigg - 9434 6685
11 Dunbarton Drive, Eltham 3095

FRIENDS OF THE ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY

Elaine Braby - 9439 9015
21 Cromwell Street, Eltham 3095

FRIENDS OF TIMBER RIDGE RESERVE

Colleen Vanderhorst - 9434 3269
112 Warralong Avenue, Greensborough 3088

FRIENDS OF YANDELL RESERVE

Graham Patterson - 9432 0163 or
9459 0222BH
36 Heather Grove, Briar Hill 3088

FRIENDS OF YARRA VALLEY PARKS

Bruce Plain - 9439 8750
2 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham 3095

FRIENDS OF WILSON RESERVE

Robert Bender - 9499 2413
9 Bailey Grove, Ivanhoe 3079

GREENING AUSTRALIA VICTORIA

9457 3024
Buckingham Drive (PO Box 525), Heidelberg 3084

LATROBE UNIVERSITY FRIENDS OF THE WILDLIFE RESERVE

George Paras - 9479 2871
LaTrobe University, Bundoora 3083

MONTMORENCY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

Anne Lawrence - 9439 8630
21 Andrews Street, Eltham 3095

RIVERLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

John Merory - 9499 6737
PO Box 246, Ivanhoe 3079

ROSANNA PARKLANDS PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Pam McIntyre - 9459 3865
4 Bachli Crescent, Rosanna 3084

WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Beryl Jarman (Secretary) - 9457 1845
PO Box 64, Rosanna 3084