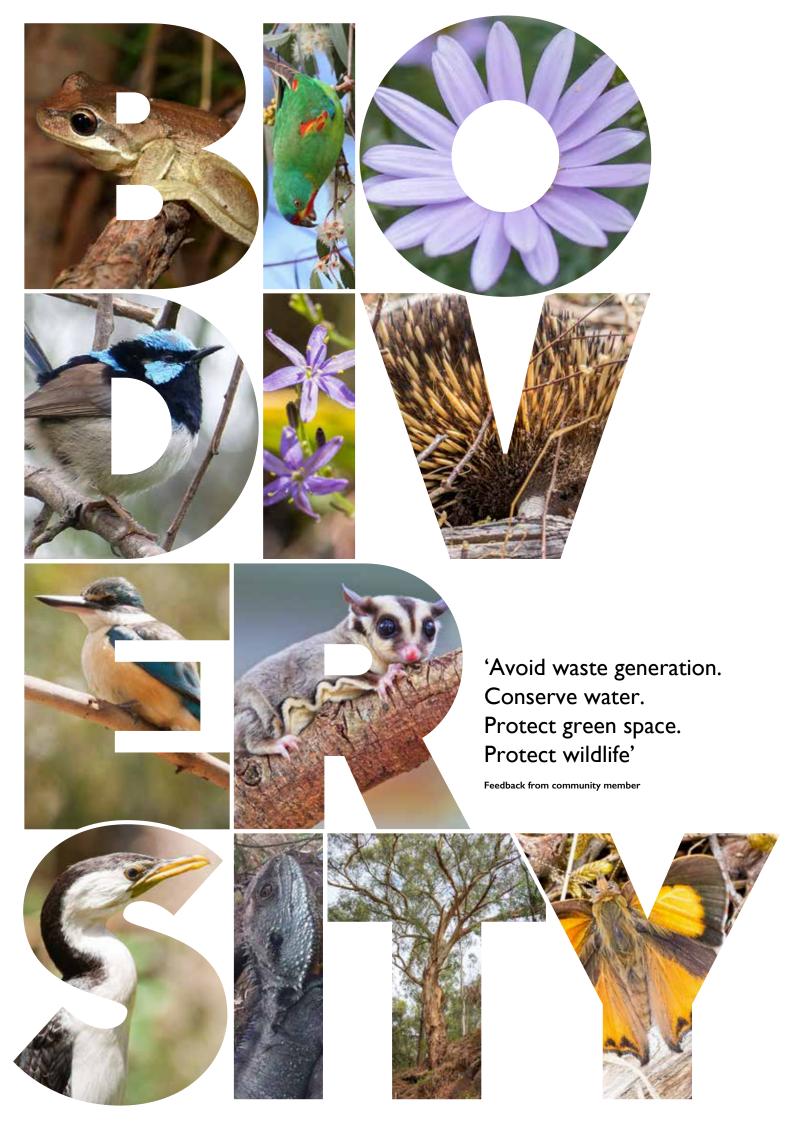


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Planet & Biodiversity





Banyule City Council - Council Plan 2017-2021



Planet Plan

Key Directions:

- Protect and enhance our natural environment
- Conserve water and improve stormwater quality and impact
- Deliver appropriate action on climate change
- Avoid waste generation
- Act as environmental stewards

Stewardship

Greenhouse

Biodiversity

Waste

Water

Biodiversity Plan

Key Direction:

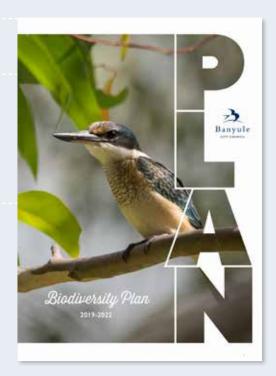
• Protect and enhance our natural environment

Key Focus Areas:

- Climate change
- Habitat destruction
- Fragmentation of bushland
- Impact of pest plants and animals environmentally sustainable way.

Key Steps:

- Minimise threats to biodiversity
- Engagement and education around biodiversity
- Manage land for biodiversity
- Partnerships a coordinated approach to biodiversity protection



3

Introduction

Biodiversity can be defined simply as the diversity of living things. It can be measured on a genetic level (diversity of genes within a species); on a species level (number of different species); and at an ecosystem level (number of functioning habitat types of different successional stages and ecological vegetation classes). All three levels of biodiversity are intertwined and must be protected, as human civilisation depends on healthy natural systems for survival. Council recognises that the critical threats to biodiversity include climate change, habitat destruction, fragmentation and the impact of weeds and feral animals.

Biodiversity is an important component in achieving our Council Plan vision of a green, sustainable and vibrant place for a healthy, connected and inclusive community. The Banyule Biodiversity Plan 2019-2022 aims to strengthen the capacity of people to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity. This Biodiversity Plan provides an overview of Banyule's biodiversity assets and lists actions and indicators to justify, direct and monitor our management of biodiversity within the municipality. It supports the objectives in Banyule's Council Plan 2017-2022, in particular the Planet: Environmental Sustainability objective:

Conduct Council activities in a sustainable manner, and practice sound stewardship of the natural environment to ensure its protection, diversity and enhancement.

The Biodiversity Plan gives effect to the Council Plan Planet key direction to protect and enhance our natural environment and also supports other key directions such as encourage environmental stewardship. Banyule's Biodiversity Plan sits within the context of our policy and strategy documents alongside the other plan level documents. It aligns with the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Plan, Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, supporting its vision that Victoria's biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively

cared for. The two main goals of this plan are for Victorians to value nature and that Victoria's natural environment is healthy. The actions outlined in Banyule's Biodiversity Plan will support the achievement of these key state government goals. Four approaches will be prioritised to ensure these goals are achieved:

- Minimise threats to biodiversity address threatening processes that impact on biodiversity.
- Engagement and education provide programs and resources to ensure the community has the knowledge, attitude and skills to protect and enhance biodiversity in Banyule.
- Manage land for biodiversity manage council land for biodiversity, based on sound ecological principles.
- Partnerships a coordinated approach establish community and program partners to improve capacity to protect and enhance biodiversity on both public and private land.

Council's key biodiversity activities and programs are listed below. These and others are covered in detail within this plan.

Minimise threats to biodiversity	Engagement and education	Manage land for biodiversity	Partnerships – a coordinated approach	
Take action on climate change	Schools Wildlife Corridors and Nature Play programs	Control pest plants and animals	Friends of groups	
Control pest plants and animals	'Buy Get Free' indigenous plant vouchers	Pilot green infrastructure projects	Educational institutions	
Connect fragmented patches of habitat	Spring Outdoors program	Revegetate with indigenous species	Local nurseries	
Limit stormwater damage	Gardens for Wildlife	Priority bushland management plans	Other councils and agencies	

Planet and biodiversity

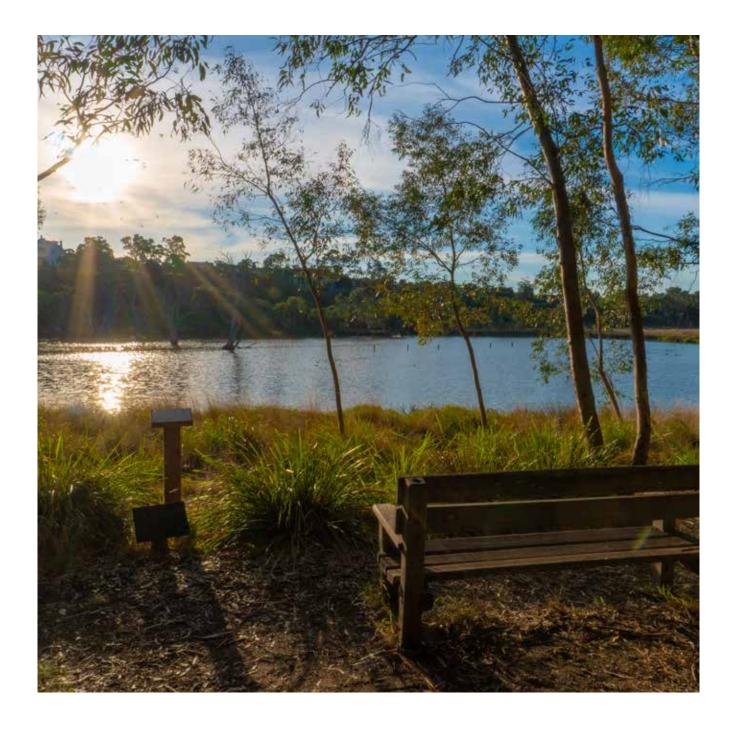


Banyule Council recognises the intrinsic value of the natural environment and aims to conduct its activities in a manner which ensures its diversity, protection and enhancement.

Council's Planet Policy and Strategy outlines five key directions to help achieve this outcome:

- Protect and enhance our natural environment;
- Conserve water and improve stormwater management;
- Lead in planning for, and responding to, climate change;
- · Avoid waste generation; and
- Be environmental stewards.

This Biodiversity Plan focuses on the key direction, to protect and enhance our natural environment while supporting all other key directions.



Biodiversity and Council's role

Biodiversity is defined simply as the diversity of living things.

Council's work addresses these asset needs, adopting a lead role in providing direction and expertise:

- Engagement and education increase awareness, support community action, provide resources and training
- Manage land for biodiversity manage biodiversity assets based on scientific and ecological evidence
- Partnerships a coordinated approach establish community and program partners to improve outcomes
- **Minimise threats to biodiversity** undertake actions to minimise threats to biodiversity

Key activities and programs undertaken in this space are detailed below.

What we do...

Engagement and education	Manage land for biodiversity	Partnerships – a coordinated approach	Minimise threats to biodiversity
Provide community members with the skills and understanding to protect and enhance biodiversity.	Develop management plans for bushland reserves based on sound scientific and ecological evidence.	Leverage partnerships with external stakeholders to build new networks and increase program outcomes, impact and effectiveness.	Take action to limit the effects of pest plant and animal species, including domestic cats.
Connect residents to their local parks, open spaces and bushland reserves.	Pilot green infrastructure projects in urban settings including green facades and rooftop gardens.	Attend regional forums to ensure a catchment wide approach to managing threatening processes.	Address fragmentation of habitat by connecting isolated patches through revegetation.
Increase awareness of Banyule's unique biodiverse assets through promotion and education.	Bushland Management Unit monitor and collect data on biodiversity to improve management practices.	Engage ecologists to assist with management of threatened species.	Take action to mitigate the threats to biodiversity posed by climate change.

The community and what we've heard...



We have learned through various community consultation activities about the community's appreciation for the environment and natural spaces within Banyule. Much of the feedback noted that Council played a meaningful role in community education on sustainability and climate change issues. There was support for Council to provide services and incentives for residents to make environmentally-aware lifestyle changes and choices. The community strongly values the natural environment, identifying it as a major reason for attraction to Banyule and wanting it to be protected for future generations.

With the abundance of green open space in Banyule, it is not surprising a significant percentage of people's first response to the question posed at various Council events and consultations in 2017, 'What do you love about where you live?' was the greenery and trees. Some even said the greenery was the reason they moved to the area. There was a strong desire expressed by residents for Council to conserve and to continue to improve the green spaces of Banyule. Concerns about the impact of the North East Link were raised. Council will continue to work with the North East Link Project to advocate for the best biodiversity outcomes possible.

Some people mentioned the importance of planting trees and shrubs that could reduce problems with pollen allergies and provide streets with more shade. There were

many comments about increasing the planting of native flora, including understorey plants for small bird habitat. One suggestion was to develop a social enterprise around indigenous bush food plants to lower food miles, build community connections and protect food security.

Connected to the love of trees and greenery were an appreciation for the natural habitat and wildlife of Banyule. Feedback even paid homage to Banyule's birdsong. Many people wanted Council to conserve natural habitat for wildlife, including wildlife corridors and parklands. Some called for harsher penalties for those who litter or cut down protected trees without permits, and local laws to ensure cat owners keep cats inside so birds were not killed.

Two actions to protect Banyule's canopy trees was suggested by the Montmorency Community group. One was a community effort to remove ivy from canopy trees.

The other action was to monitor the movements of sugar gliders in the area as they are indicators of healthy habitat. Both these actions are currently underway.

The importance of education for young people about our local biodiversity rated several mentions. It was felt that increasing opportunities for people to connect with, learn about and enjoy nature were very positive outcomes for the community.

In your words!

'Banyule has done very well planting street trees the last two years.....but please, plant more trees. We need more shade in Rosanna.'

'Please, please more trees, anywhere, any size and any type (of course natives are best in general).'

'The creek, wildlife and wildlife corridors are fantastic.'

'Preservation of the environment. We have community groups that plant natives – more would be great.'

'Put up more nesting boxes. We need to protect bird life. The Council could educate the community on how to make their gardens native bird friendly and encourage people to install nesting boxes.'

'I would love to see council facilitate bush playgroups, bush school programs and kindergartens and see Banyule leading the way in this growing movement.'



Policy and situational context

The Biodiversity Plan gives effect to the Council Plan Planet key direction to protect and enhance our natural environment and also supports other key directions such as encourage environmental stewardship.

Banyule's Biodiversity Plan sits within the context of our policy and strategy documents alongside the other plan level documents. It aligns with the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Plan: Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, supporting its vision that Victoria's biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for. The two main goals of this plan are for:

- · Victorians to value nature; and
- · Victoria's natural environment is healthy.

The actions outlined in Banyule's Biodiversity Plan will contribute to the achievement of these key state government goals.

Council's current approach and delivery of biodiversity programs is provided in the following pages across our four action areas.



Minimising threats to biodiversity



Council recognises that once genes, species and ecosystems are lost, we cannot create new ones, so we must protect what we have got. Taking action to reduce threats to biodiversity is the main mechanism for protecting biodiversity. Limiting these threats will result in healthier ecosystems, which in turn, will provide ecosystem services that sustain life – shade, clean air, water and soil, and pest and disease control.

The main threats to biodiversity in Banyule are:

- · Climate change
- Competition from weeds
- · Predation by and competition from pest animals
- Habitat fragmentation through urbanisation
- Human created waste and rubbish

Key Council strategies for minimising threats to biodiversity include:

- · Climate change action
- · Knowledge and capacity building
- · Liaising with neighbouring land managers
- · Limiting stormwater damage

Climate change action

OBJECTIVES:

- To lessen the effects of extreme weather events
- To manage the risk of bushfires
- To reduce the impact of the heat island effect

As outlined in the Notice of Motion adopted by Council on Monday 10 December 2018, Banyule recognises the imminent threat to people and the environment that climate change presents. Climate change is leading to more extreme weather events, such as the major flood in Rosanna in 2016, an increased risk of bushfires, and a rapid altering of environmental conditions to which local species are adapted. The threat to these species is that they cannot evolve fast enough to cope with these predicted changes, leading to their extinction.

Bushfires have been a long standing feature of our Australian ecosystems but are not acceptable in urban areas where property damage or loss of life may result. Without frequent 'cool burn' fires to which bushland areas are adapted, there can be a build-up of fuel, more intense, difficult to control 'hot burning' fires and a loss of species that are not adapted to this intensity.

The Bushland Management Unit manages this threat with low intensity, ecological burns to reduce fuel loads, control weeds and regenerate species that have evolved to germinate when stimulated by the chemicals present in bushfire smoke.

Another advantage of greening Banyule is to reduce future heat island effects in urban areas. Increasing the amount of canopy cover can create local microclimates and keep temperatures lower than they would otherwise be. Green infrastructure, such as roof top gardens, can also play a role in reducing these heat loads, and cooling costs, while improving biodiversity outcomes.



Ulimate Unange facts

Did you know?

Atmospheric carbon dioxide has risen from 280 ppm in pre industrial times to 407.18 in March 2017.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide has reached its highest level for 650,000 years (IPCC) - 2007 report for NASA.

This increase in atmospheric carbon will result in a temperature rise around 0.5 - 1.2 C by 2030.

The CSIRO predicts a reduction in rainfall in southern Australia of up to around 15% by 2030.

Minimising threats to biodiversity

Knowledge and capacity building

OBJECTIVES:

- Raise awareness of threats to biodiversity
- Build capacity of residents to take appropriate actions
- Engage residents to take action to minimise these threats

To address the threats to biodiversity, Council has a range of tools to raise awareness of environmental issues, develop capacity building, and demonstrate skills required to take action. For example, to address weed control, Council has produced a weeds brochure that is available to residents to assist them to identify invasive weeds in their gardens for removal. A video demonstrating weed removal techniques also assists residents to take action.

Liaise with neighbouring land managers **OBJECTIVES**:

- To facilitate a catchment wide approach
- To increase the range and effectiveness of land management programs

Council liaises with neighbouring land managers to minimise threats to biodiversity. Banyule shares boundaries with Nillumbik, Manningham and Darebin councils as well as large areas of land managed by Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and private landowners. An example of how Banyule liaises with these agencies is Council's involvement in the North East Pest Animal Management Network. The Bushland Management Coordinator attends meetings to look for the best ways to work together to control highly mobile species such as foxes and Indian Mynas. Coordinated, catchmentwide actions based on strong scientific models and sound data achieves better results for all involved.

Limit storm water damage

OBJECTIVES:

• To manage and reuse stormwater

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- To decrease the impact of severe storms
- To maintain habitat values of water bodies

Climate change is already creating more extreme weather events such as storms. More severe storms mean increased run off in Banyule, increased erosion and the reduction of the habitat value of creeks and rivers. To address this, Council is committed to:

- Capturing storm water run-off and reusing it for irrigation at the three stormwater harvesting project sites
- Including water-sensitive urban design in drainage plans, for example Were Street rain garden in Montmorency
- Retaining water in the landscape in the form of wetlands, for example the re-watering of Banyule Billabong





Engagement and education



Council aims to engage the community in a variety of programs which will improve their knowledge and appreciation of local biodiversity. These activities are designed to connect people to their local bushland areas, parks and reserves in an engaging, educational and social way, so that they are more likely to contribute to the conservation of these natural areas. Adults and children are provided with hands on skills and experiences in the natural world, increasing their knowledge base and skills. For example, Banyule's Bushland Management Unit run several nesting box building workshops for residents each year, where residents learn about the habits of local wildlife species.

Council's notable biodiversity engagement and education programs include:

- Schools Wildlife Corridors Program
- 'Buy I, get I free' Indigenous plant voucher system
- Spring Outdoors Program
- · Gardens for Wildlife Program
- · Nature Play program

Detail on these programs are provided below:

Schools Wildlife Corridors Program

Council runs the Schools Wildlife Corridors Program each year. This is a three-step program targeting local primary schools, and includes a biodiversity audit, a community revegetation day in one of Banyule's bushland reserves, and a school action day. The program features Indigenous cultural activities delivered by Wurundjeri Elders, a peer learning approach where secondary students mentor primary students, and the delivery of a range of hands-on environmental activities including revegetation and water quality testing.

OBJECTIVES:

- Increase awareness of biodiversity in Banyule
- Connect children to their local environment and community
- Address fragmentation of habitat by creating wildlife corridors across Banyule
- Educate students about biodiversity and their local environment

Banyule's Environment Team partners with schools and other local agencies to deliver the program. The Bushland Management Unit prepares the area and supplies the appropriate indigenous plants for revegetation.

Gardens for Wildlife - Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

As part of a focus on raising greater awareness and understanding of biodiversity by Council, a suite of short videos have been produced. The Gardens for Wildlife video is one example. It provides an overview of the program and what Council is trying to achieve. Short interviews with Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-Operative (VINC) staff and residents explains how the program works. Viewers gain an understanding of the program which starts with an introductory workshop at VINC, a garden site assessment with each participant, and a garden report to assist participants with the habitat restoration of their gardens.



'Buy I Get I free' Indigenous Plant Voucher System

The popular 'Buy I, Get I Free' indigenous plant voucher system encourages Banyule residents to create habitat in their own gardens by planting local indigenous species. Indigenous plants are used to the local soil and climatic conditions, attract indigenous birds, animals and insects and provide food and shelter for a range of species.

Planting these indigenous plants on private land contributes to the natural wildlife corridors established along local waterways, enhancing and connecting fragmented patches of habitat, enabling wildlife to move through urban areas.

Residents receive the voucher along with a plant list relevant to the particular indigenous plant community that covers their property. This helps them in plant selection when redeeming their voucher from one of the two participating local nurseries.

Engagement and education



Spring Outdoors Program

The Spring Outdoors Program is another program designed to connect residents with their natural environment and appreciate biodiversity in their local area. Run in partnership with Manningham and Nillumbik Councils, the extensive program of events encourages people to shake off their winter hibernation and get active in the outdoors, improving their health, wellbeing and knowledge of biodiversity. Some of the key events in the annual Spring Outdoors Program include the Breakfast with the Birds event, Malahang Festival and a Hollows for Habitat nesting box building workshop.

Gardens for Wildlife Program

A recent addition to Banyule's suite of biodiversity activities is the Gardens for Wildlife program. A pilot program was delivered in autumn 2018 with excellent results. The program aims to encourage residents to learn more about their local biodiversity through developing gardens with habitat value for local birds, animals and insects. Residents are recruited through an online process using the Facebook platform, with a maximum of 25 residents per intake. Run in partnership with Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-Operative (VINC) at Fairfield, the program begins with a workshop at VINC nursery, where residents learn about site preparation, indigenous plant species, soil and garden design. They are then signed up for a garden assessment with a

specialist garden guide, who suggests ways to improve their gardens and leaves them with a garden plan. Residents are given vouchers for 20 indigenous plants and start their onground actions. A celebration day, held in partnership with a local Friends of group, rounds out the program. An online community of practice is formed on the Gardens for Wildlife Facebook page, where participants can share photos of their gardens, tips and hints and seek advice.

Nature Play Program

In response to recent research on nature deficit disorder and the rise of anxiety and depression in young children, Banyule has committed to run a yearly program of seven nature play events. The program is linked to the seven seasons of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the traditional custodians of Banyule, with one event held in each of the seven seasons in one of Banyule's bushland reserves or parks. Young children and their parents are encouraged to attend and take part in a range of activities that engage them in the natural world. Activities include nature walks with the Bushland Management staff, bark painting using ochre, water bug investigations, building cubbies and weaving with local grass species. Banyule's Leisure, Arts and Culture, Bushland Management, Environment and Early Childhood teams collaborate to deliver these events.

Manage land for biodiversity



Council is committed to managing land for biodiversity. Protection of biodiversity requires active management to maintain genetic diversity and to maintain the integrity and functionality of wetlands, waterways and wildlife corridors. Council continually reviews programs within these areas to ensure tangible outcomes are being achieved.

Council's key programs in this area include:

- Priority bushland management plans
- · Control of pest plants and animals
- · Wildlife Corridors Program
- · Green infrastructure in urban areas

Priority Bushland Management Plans OBJECTIVES:

- Control of invasive weed species
- Promotion of regrowth of indigenous species

......

- Record lists of flora and fauna
- Monitor ecosystem health

Each year, Banyule engages an ecologist to write bushland management plans for different sites around Banyule. Over the last four years, these plans have been developed for Greensborough's Andrew Yandell Habitat Reserve, the Banyule Northern Grassland Reserve at Heidelberg West, the Montmorency bushland reserves and in 2018, the Plenty River bushland reserves including Partington's Flat, Anthony Beale Reserve and Fricker's Hill Reserve. The ecologist advises the Bushland Management Unit on the best ways to manage this land for biodiversity. Flora and fauna surveys are carried out at different times of the year and threatened flora species are mapped using the GIS system, to ensure the Bushland staff are aware of the location of these plants. They can then take appropriate care of them to conserve the species for the future.



Calocephalus citreus- Lemon Beauty-head

Case Study

The Banyule Northern Grasslands encompass approximately 6 hectares of Plains Grassy Woodland. The grassland is located along the Darebin Creek in Heidelberg West, approximately 13 kilometres from Melbourne CBD. These grasslands form part of the Darebin Creek Trail Park and part of a wildlife corridor between the Darebin Creek and the Yarra River. Cattle have previously been grazed in the area and earthworks have occurred to batten the side of the creek and install water drainage. The grassland is bordered by factories to the east, La Trobe University grasslands to the north, Darebin Creek trail to the south and the Darebin Creek to the west. The surrounding area has been cleared for development and the vegetation in these areas has been modified greatly, with the introduction of non-indigenous species. The closest area of remnant grassland is located approximately 8 kilometres away in Bundoora Parklands. Less than I per cent of Victoria's remnant indigenous grasslands remain today, so this area is carefully managed by the Banyule Council Bushland Management Unit to ensure this unique vegetation community is conserved for the future. Grasslands are important habitat for skinks, birds of prey, insects and small marsupials. Grassland species that occur in this area include Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra), Matted Flax Lily (Dianella amoena), Blue Devil (Eryngium ovinum) and Slender Tick Trefoil (Desmodium varians).



Themeda triandra - Kangaroo Grass



Rytidosperma - sp. Wallaby Grass



Eryngium ovinum - Blue Devil

Manage land for biodiversity

Biodiversity in Banyule - current status

Case Study

To retain and improve biodiversity, we include all areas of Banyule in our planning, and also advocate to the Victorian Government regarding land it manages.

Banyule:

Covers an area of 890 hectares;

Has 606.4 hectares of Council-owned and managed open space and 285 hectares of state government owned and managed open space;

Includes more than 30 sites designated as bushland reserves - staff trained to care for biodiversity values manage these;

Has 22 biosites (sites of regional, state or national environmental significance), managed as bushland reserves where they are council owned;

Flora:

- Banyule has 401 indigenous vascular plant species, some common and some found only in isolated patches (recorded through surveys between 1995 and 2000, Beardsall, 2000).
- 170 species are likely to have been present in Banyule but have not been recorded here.
- Many non-vascular plants and other non-vascular life forms such as fungi and lichens that have not been surveyed but which add value to the ecosystems in which they are found through their interactions with plants, animals, water and soils.

Remnant vegetation:

 Remnant flora describes stands of vegetation that have persisted on site continuously since before European settlement. Banyule retains less than 10 per cent of its original vegetation cover (Beardsall, 2000).

Indigenous canopy cover contributes to Banyule's liveability by:

- Helping to identify the municipality and enhance a sense of place.
- Contributing to the community's positive feelings about living in the area.
- Providing greater recognition of and planning control over large remnant trees of age, size and habitat or landscape value through Banyule's Significant Tree Register.
- Protecting remnant bushland areas supporting a diverse range of middle and understorey plants, including many flowering herbs, lilies and terrestrial orchids.
- Banyule Council commissioned a study to locate vegetation sub communities in 1999. It identified 34 vegetation sub communities. This data is used to select species for revegetation projects.

Fauna:

Indigenous vertebrate animal species recorded in Banyule include:

- 214 birds
- 20 mammals
- 23 reptiles
- 12 frogs
- 9 freshwater fish

Many of these species will utilise habitat outside Banyule. These means connected wildlife corridors with a good cover of indigenous trees are critical for their survival.







Control of pest plants and animals

OBIECTIVES:

- Control environmental weeds on Council land to prevent their spread
- Control pest animals on Council land to prevent negative impacts on biodiversity

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• Prevent the proliferation of feral cats

Flora that is not indigenous to Banyule may be a weed species.

These weeds are categorised on the basis of their invasiveness and method of spread. There are:

- 240 plant species established in Banyule
- 25 noxious weed species as defined by the Catchment and Land Protection Act of 1994 (CaLP Act)
- 58 regional priority weeds

Council works hard to control weeds on Council land. The Bushland Management Unit use a variety of techniques to manage weeds, including spraying with herbicide and hand weeding in sensitive areas. Wash and blow down procedures are being improved to prevent the spread of weeds from site to site, with a wash down bay to be installed at the parks depot and blow down procedures implemented as part of the working routine of teams in 2019 - 2022.

The Environment Team works closely with Local Laws on weed infestations on private land, with a weed letter sent to the resident requesting removal and outlining consequences. Pest animals can have a highly damaging effect on the biodiversity of Banyule, so Council takes action to control them on Council land. The North East Regional Organisation of Councils (NEROC) report lists 31 introduced vertebrate pest species active in the Banyule area. They predate on local plants and animals, compete with indigenous animals for food and breeding sites, spread weeds and can spread diseases to local animals and humans.

The main pest animals in Banyule are foxes, rabbits, birds (such as Indian Mynas) and feral and domestic cats. Rabbits and foxes are targeted with baiting programs on Council land. Some residents participated in the Indian Myna community trapping trial in 2017 with mixed results. Council conducts a cat de-sexing program to ensure cats cannot breed and increase feral cat numbers.

Keeping cats inside at night can have a hugely positive effect on local fauna species, as cats are instinctive hunters and prey on native birds, lizards and small marsupials, killing millions of small native birds and animals across Australia each year. (Australian Wildlife Conservancy)

Wildlife corridors

OBJECTIVES:

- · Create habitat for native wildlife
- Support genetic flow
- Connect fragmented patches of habitat

Many areas of natural habitat occur within Banyule and on adjacent land, providing important refuges for indigenous plants and animals. Clearing for agriculture and urbanisation has meant that these natural wildlife corridors have been fragmented over time, meaning species range is restricted and genetic flow reduced. The Bushland Management Unit work to create and maintain natural wildlife corridors along the Yarra and Plenty Rivers and the Darebin Creek throughout the municipality. This connects fragmented patches of habitat and gives indigenous plants and animals greater chances of survival.

There are opportunities to incorporate community generated data to look at the strengthening of the vegetation protection overlays in Banyule.



Partnerships – a coordinated approach

Green infrastructure in urban areas

OBJECTIVES:

- To encourage biodiversity in urban spaces
- To address the urban heat island effect

In the coming four years, Banyule will pilot green infrastructure projects on Council buildings. Green infrastructure involves the use of plants to shade the built environment, creating micro climates that reflect sunlight, cool buildings down and combat the heat island effect. These projects will take the form of green facades and rooftop gardens. The projects will increase the amount of biodiversity in urban areas by creating habitat for small birds and insects in places where there was none. Biodiversity protection and enhancement cannot be achieved without collaborating with partners. Council recognises that interest and expertise within the community, particularly within our environment and 'friends of' groups, neighbouring councils and other agencies. By partnering with these groups, Council is able to have a wider impact and achieve its goals more readily. As a result, many of our programs are delivered in partnership with organisations including Nillumbik and Manningham councils, 'friends of' groups, Darebin Creek Management Committee and agencies such as Yarra Valley Water, Melbourne Water and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Key programs that demonstrate a coordinated approach include:

- Facilitation of 'friends of' groups
- Schools Wildlife Corridors Program
- Banyule and Nillumbik Teacher Environment Network
- Spring Outdoors Program



Facilitation of 'friends of' groups

OBIECTIVES:

- To build knowledge, skills and capacity in the community
- To complement the work of the Bushland Management Unit

Council recognises the huge amount of volunteer hours provided by local friends of groups in the rehabilitation and maintenance of our local parks and reserves. The Bushland Management Unit supports friends groups in specific projects, for example, helping the Friends of Darebin Creek create habitat by running a nesting box building workshop each February. These activities not only support community conservation efforts, contribute to wildlife corridors and complement the Bushland Team's works program, but provide Council and other organisations such as Melbourne Water with vital information and help improve the biodiverse quality of a site.

Schools Wildlife Corridors Program

OBJECTIVES:

- Connect school students with their local environment
- Build a resilient, connected community
- Contribute to enhancing Banyule's network of wildlife corridors and biodiversity

The Schools Wildlife Corridors Program is another example of partnerships delivering better outcomes for Council. The program is run in partnership with the Wurundjeri Tribal Council, Darebin Creek Management Committee, the Bushland and Environment teams and local schools.

Each of these agencies work together to deliver hands on, environmental education activities to local Banyule schools, raising awareness of local Banyule biodiversity, connecting students to their local environment and to helping them to take practical action to protect and enhance biodiversity.



Banyule and Nillumbik Teacher Environment Network (TEN)

OBJECTIVES:

- Increase capacity of teachers to provide quality environmental education
- Increase skills and knowledge of teachers in the environmental education area

The Banyule – Nillumbik TEN celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2017 and continues to provide teachers in the two council areas with inspiration, ideas and educational resources to assist them to run environmental education programs with their students. There are two meetings a term held at either Edendale Farm in Eltham or at local schools, to better showcase school environmental programs in action. Guest speakers are engaged, resources demonstrated and participants get the opportunity to network.

Another aspect of the network is the annual Kids Teaching Kids Day held at Edendale Farm each year in September. The event is a peer learning event where students deliver creative presentations on the environmental theme chosen for that particular year.

Spring Outdoors Program

OBJECTIVES:

- To connect residents with their local environment
- To raise awareness of Banyule's unique biodiversity
- To encourage residents to take action to protect and enhance biodiversity
- To gather data about the health of the local environment

Each year, Banyule Council partners with neighbouring councils Manningham and Nillumbik to present the Spring Outdoors Program. This program is designed to get people outside, connecting with nature and improving their knowledge of local biodiversity in the warmer spring weather. The suite of activities in the three month program ranges from smaller boutique events such as backyard bee keeping to larger festivals such as Heidelberg West's Malahang Festival. The flagship of Banyule's contribution to the calendar of events is Breakfast with the Birds, which is held at Banyule Flats. More than 100 people attend and are guided by Birdlife Melbourne guides on a bird watching walk, then return for breakfast and a bird count. The data gathered at the count is used to gauge the health of the ecosystems along Banyule Flats.

Nesting box building in Chelsworth Park

Each year as part the Spring Outdoors Program, a nesting box building workshop is held at Chelsworth Park in Ivanhoe. The aim of the session is to create habitat for local wildlife and raise awareness among local residents about the importance of wildlife corridors in urban areas. Residents are encouraged to take their newly created nesting boxes home and put them in trees in their backyards. A range of nesting boxes are created for species such as microbats, possums, sugar gliders and a variety of birds.



Action Plan - Pest Plants

Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
Protect and enhance our natural environment	BP - PP I	Pest Plants	To ensure Council prioritise protection of high value biodiversity hotspots by managing weeds effectively.	Develop and implement environmental management plans for natural habitat areas and key reserves. Where no specific management plans exist, follow established industry standards.	Continue vegetation and fauna surveys through parks and reserves. Vegetation assessment works and comprehensive species lists compiled for selected sites.	\$	Е	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - PP2	Pest Plants	To ensure all priority weeds (CALP and WONS) are effectively managed.	Program developed to support the eradication of priority CaLP and WONS on all council reserves. Program to be implemented. Weed Management Strategy and updated weed list to support this action.	Program developed and implemented. Reduction in CaLP and WONS weeds through all council reserves.	\$\$	R	Parks, Bushland, Environmental Sustainability
	BP - PP3	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Establish a data set to identify areas of high weed infestation.	Baseline data set established to measure against.	\$	Е	Parks Presentation, Bushland
	BP - PP4	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Remove/reduce weeds on Council land prioritising weeds that pose the greatest threat due to their effect on biodiversity and their capacity to spread.	Cover of weeds and existing weed infestations and negative impacts reduced. Use before and after photopoint monitoring to measure success. Refer to PP3 baseline Data capture.	\$	Е	Parks Presentation, Sport Fields, Bushland
	BP - PP5	Pest Plants	To reduce spread of weed species from land adjacent to parks and gardens.	Utilise the updated WMS and Weedlist to undertake education of residents to reduce cover and spread of weed species.	Fewer incidences of spread from private land, measured by a reduction in weed CRMs.	\$	Ē	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - PP7	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Develop Naturestrip and Planting Guidelines to guide preferred plant selection along nature strips and roadsides.	Decrease in weed species on nature strips and increase of suitable indigenous alternatives.	\$	Е	Environmental Sustainability, Bushland Parks Presentation, Open Space Planning
	BP - PP8	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Develop information pack for Peri Urban dwellers about how to manage their larger blocks for pest plants.	Identify large peri urban blocks and distribute info packs to owners. Reduction of weed CRMs in these areas and record number of Info packs distributed to owners.	\$	Е	Environmental Sustainability

Cost* \$ = 0-10k

\$\$ = 10-100k \$\$ = > 100k

Budget** E = Existing

R = Additional Funding Required



Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
	BP - PP9	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Instigate machinery blow down procedures for mowing crews to prevent spread of weeds, e.g. Chilean Needle Grass.	Machinery inspection program implemented. Staff adhering to best practice.	\$	Е	Parks Presentation
	BP - PPIO	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Ensure wash down procedures occur at Ops Depot by returning crews regularly. Investigate wash down bay for Parks.	Machinery inspection program implemented. Staff adhering to best practice.	\$\$	R	Parks Presentation
	BP - PPII	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Advocate internally to influence landscape plans on private land to increase percentage of indigenous plants used. Establish Nature Strip Guidelines & landscape guidelines.	Attend planning team meetings quarterly to advocate for use of indigenous plants in landscape plans.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - PP12	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Encourage residents to use indigenous trees as replacement plantings on tree removal applications and consider issuing plant vouchers in certain circumstances.	Increase in indigenous trees as replacement choices and increase in vouchers distributed.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability, Subdivisions, Arborist Services & Investigations
	BP - PP13	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Work with Municipal Laws to enforce noxious weed removal on private land where possible.	Reduction of weeds - photo point monitoring shows weeds removed, reduction in weed CRMs.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability, Municipal Laws
	BP - PP14	Pest Plants	To reduce weed cover and spread and to promote biodiversity.	Review and improve 2006 weed management strategy. Provide updated weed list for residents.	Update current weed management strategy document to include emerging problem weeds.	\$\$	R	Environmental Sustainability, All Parks teams

Cost* \$ = 0-10k\$\$ = 10-100k \$\$\$ = > 100k

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Budget***} & \text{E} = \text{Existing} \\ & \text{R} = \text{Additional Funding Required} \end{array}$









Action Plan - Pest Fauna

Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
Protect and enhance our natural environment	BP - PF I	Pest Fauna	To reduce threat to flora and fauna by pest animals.	Identify all pest animals within prioritised biodiversity sites and determine best pest management strategies where there is a reasonable cost benefit expected.	Monitoring show a reduction in density of pest numbers or reduced area of land damaged by pest animals.	\$	Е	Bushland
	BP - PF2	Pest Fauna	To reduce threat to flora and fauna by pest animals.	For species that freely move across large areas such as rabbits, participate in any regional control programs where a reasonable cost benefit is expected (e.g. North East Pest Animal Management Network).	Monitoring shows a reduction in density or reduced area of land damaged by pest animals. (determined by NE Pest Management Strategy).	\$	Е	Bushland
	BP - PF3	Pest Fauna	To prevent the threat and impact of domestic cats on native fauna.	Reduce the environmental impact of domestic cats wandering at night - promote responsible pet ownership and participation in Banyule's cat de-sexing program.	Decrease in domestic and semi owned cat intake into the pound.	\$	Е	Municipal laws
	BP - PF5	Pest Fauna	To improve residents' understanding of the impact of domestic pets on indigenous fauna.	Provide education and information to residents to facilitate a reduction in the number of feral animals.	Community knowledge increased, indicated by increased participation in cat de-sexing program.	\$	Е	Municipal laws
	BP -PF6	Pest Fauna	To reduce the impact of Indian Mynas on native bird populations.	Set up a community trap booking scheme at DCMC to follow up the Indian Myna trapping trial.	Amount of traps loaned out, reduction of Indian Mynas surveyed in participating residents' backyards.	\$	Е	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - PF7	Pest Fauna	To increase reach of wildlife corridors.	Implement Gardens for Wildlife Program for residents.	G4W becomes an ongoing aspect of the Wildlife Corridors Program for residents.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability

Cost* \$=0-10k \$\$=10-100k\$\$\$=>100k

Budget** E = Existing

R = Additional Funding Required







Action Plan - Urbanisation



Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
Protect and enhance our natural environment	BP - UI	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Protect indigenous vegetation and habitat remnants.	Undertake planning scheme amendment to update the Significant tree Resgister.	More vegetation is protected, Significant Tree Register records a gradual increase.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability,
	BP - U2	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Protect significant trees and keep register updated.	Update the Significant Tree Register by seeking new nominations to ensure trees are being adequately recognised and protected.	Increase in awareness and knowledge exists about Banyule's significant trees leading to an increase in trees on the list.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - U3	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Reduce heat island effect and increase canopy cover where possible in urban areas.	Urban Forest Strategic Plan to identify best practice management options.	Investigate and assess 20,000 street scape planting opportunities.	\$\$	Ē	Tree Care
	BP - U4	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Protect wildlife and natural habitat.	Ensure customer service are aware of key points of contact when residents report injured wildlife. Provide fact sheet and update spiel for customer service.	Reduced loss of species and habitat.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability, Customer service
	BP - U5	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Prevent fragmentation and connect isolated areas of bushland.	Update existing GIS wildlife corridors map. Ensure Parks and Gardens staff refer to the map in their planning.	Increase of indigenous plantings across wildlife corridors, increase in genetic strength of targeted species.	\$	Ē	Environmental Sustainability, Parks, Bushland
	BP - U6	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Align nest box placement with wildlife corridors.	Identify and work with key internal and external stakeholders along the wildlife corridors to install nesting boxes.	Increased numbers of nesting boxes.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability, Bushland
	BP - U7	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Show changes and improvements in vegetation cover over time.	Prepare maps indicating the current extent of vegetation within Banyule to identify changes compared with the former distribution patterns and cover.	Data collected to show increase or decrease of vegetation cover. Data shared with planning department to help evaluate if vegetation protection measures in the planning scheme are working or not.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability, GIS, Tree Care

Cost* \$ = 0-10k \$\$ = 10-100k \$\$\$ = > 100k

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Budget***} & \mbox{E = Existing} \\ & \mbox{R = Additional Funding Required} \end{array}$

Action Plan - Urbanisation

Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
	BP - U8	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Liaise and cooperate with other land managers to extend and establish wildlife corridors in and outside of Banyule.	Develop cooperative programs with other land managers in the reestablishment of wildlife corridors through revegetation and pest species control - e.g. Melbourne Water and Parks Vic.	Specific projects can be identified across agencies as a case study to show improvements over time.	\$	E	Bushland, Environmental Sustainability
	BP - U9	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Protect populations of rare and threatened species.	Refer to EPBC and FFG Action Plans from DELWP website to manage and monitor rare and threatened species populations.	Ensure current mapping data reflects improvements across current populations of rare and threatened species within Banyule.	\$	E	Bushland, Environmental Sustainability
	BP - UII	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Support community environmental volunteers and Friends of groups.	Provide information, grant opportunities, promotion and on ground assistance where possible.	Biodiversity is improved through increased community knowledge, awareness, capacity and effort.	\$	E	Bushland, Environmental Sustainability
	BP - UI2	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Increase indigenous plantings on private land and connect wildlife corridors.	Provide incentives to use indigenous plants to individuals, community groups and schools by promoting the availability of indigenous plants from local nurseries via the voucher system.	Biodiversity is supported through increased cover of local plants on non-Council land.	\$	Е	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - UI3	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	To reduce the erosion of stream banks, decrease loss of streambank habitat and increase water in wetlands.	Identify suitable locations for the construction of water sensitive urban design features to reduce the flow of run off from Council owned sites and seek funding for appropriate works.	Increase and maintain water sensitive urban design (WSUD) features e.g. rain gardens, tree pits.	\$\$	R	Development and drainage, Environmental Operations, Parks
	BP - UI4	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Reduce leaf and nutrient flow into waterways.	Ensure that street tree planting is sympathetic to the surrounding landscape with regards to species, while seeking to reduce impact to water ways.	Stormwater quality improved with less autumn leaf contamination.	\$\$	Е	Tree Care, Environmental Operations
	BP - UI5	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Reduce damaging flows of stormwater.	Advocate for the introduction of new planning controls that require appropriate water sensitive urban design and minimisation of hard surfaces in new developments.	Stabilisation of volume and rate of flow into stormwater systems.	\$	Е	Development and drainage, Statutory Planning, Operations

Cost* \$ = 0-10k\$\$ = 10-100k

\$\$ = > 100k

Budget** E = Existing R = Additional Funding Required



Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
	BP - U16	Urbanisation and Biodiversity	Consider incorporating data from the Banyule Sugar Glider Community Project Council biodiversity and Planning decisionmaking.	Data to be analysed and considered for use by Planning Department.	VPOI strengthened with added data layer.	\$	Е	Environment, Planning, Bushland

\$ = 0-10k \$\$ = 10-100k \$\$\$ = > 100k Cost*

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Budget***} & \text{E = Existing} \\ & \text{R = Additional Funding Required} \end{array}$



Action Plan - Knowledge and Capacity

Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
Protect and enhance our natural environment	BP - KCB I	Knowledge and Capacity Building	Ensure information is readily available to community members.	Prepare and make available information brochures, and other publications on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and reducing threats to biodiversity, such as fact sheets and videos.	Videos uploaded on the web, publications readily available at customer service centres.	\$	Е	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - KCB 2	Knowledge and Capacity Building	Ensure school program activities are linked to the Australian curriculum to increase uptake by schools and improve delivery of key biodiversity and water quality messages.	Promote curriculum linked school programs to increase awareness of the requirements for protecting and enhancing biodiversity.	School engagement numbers maintained or improved.	\$	E	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - KCB 3	Knowledge and Capacity Building	Establish a working group of key stakeholders to guide best practice management of biodiversity management and protection.	Ensure information about biodiversity is communicated between internal staff eg weed spread between sites.	Land management practices adapt with new information.	\$	Е	Parks, Bushland, Environment Sustainability
	BP - KCB 4	Knowledge and Capacity Building	Finance a coordinated, partnership approach to biodiversity protection.	Seek funding and partnership opportunities to increase the resources we have available to protect and enhance biodiversity.	Resources are increased, improvement in capacity to improve conservation works.	\$\$	R	Parks, Bushland, Environmental Sustainability
	BP - KCB 5	Knowledge and Capacity Building	Ensure continual improvement and determine effectiveness of delivery methods.	Establish evaluation framework to enable monitoring and evaluation of Banyule's education programs.	Framework established and education programs are effective as shown by evaluation results.	\$	Е	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - KCB 6	Knowledge and Capacity Building	Contribute to the State of the Environment reporting in Banyule.	Provide data about on ground works.	Data leads to more accurate reporting.	\$	Е	Bushland, Environmental Sustainability

Cost* \$ = 0-10k \$\$ = 10-100k

\$\$\$ = > 100k

Budget** E = Existing

R = Additional Funding Required





Corresponding City Plan Key Direction	Ref.	Theme	Objectives	Actions	KPIs	Cost*	Budget **	Responsible Department
Protect and enhance our natural environment	BP - CCI	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Maintain wildlife corridors to ensure genetic diversity.	Ensure genetic diversity through reintroduction of locally sourced, indigenous plants where appropriate on Council roadsides, parks and reserves.	Number or range of species stable or increased.	\$\$	E	Bushland, Parks Presentation, Open Space Planning
	BP - CC2	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Empower community action on climate change by encouraging more community involvement in improving and protecting biodiversity.	Support community action on climate change through education and grants. Encourage the consideration of biodiversity outcomes in projects funded under our existing grants program.	Increase in amount of community projects with a biodiversity focus.	\$\$	E	Environmental Sustainability
	BP - CC3	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Protect biodiversity by reducing community CO2 emissions. Make cycling and walking a safer and more appealing option for residents.	Support cycling and walking through advocacy and the provision of events. Improve infrastructure for cycling and walking.	Implementation of Banyule Walking Strategy 2018-2028 and Banyule Bicycle Strategy 2020 action plans.	\$	E	Transport, Transport Planning, Open Space Planning
	BP - CC4	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Reduce fuel loads and control weeds.	Continue to use fire to reduce fuel loads, weed cover and and promote regeneration of local species.	Monitor and and record changes over time.	\$\$	Е	Bushland
	BP - CC5	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Ensure aquatic habitat is restored and stormwater flows are reduced and cleaned.	Identify suitable locations for restoration of wetlands and billabongs and seek funding for appropriate works. Maintain stormwater harvesting sites as prefilters of water entering billabongs at Chelsworth Park and Plenty River at Kalparrin Gardens.	Sites restored, aquatic habitat provided.	\$\$\$	E	Environmental operations
	BP - CC6	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Ensure aquatic habitat is restored and stormwater flows are reduced and cleaned.	Maintain stormwater harvesting sites as prefilters of water entering billabongs at Chelsworth Park and Plenty River at Kalparrin Gardens.	Refer to water quality testing to current Stormwater harvested sites.Meet water Plan targets for pollutant removal.	\$\$\$	E	Environmental Operations





How to contact your Council

For all enquiries or information about any Council services:

Telephone: **9490 4222**

Email: enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au Website: www.banyule.vic.gov.au

Fax: 9499 9475

If your hearing or speech is impaired, you can call us through the National Relay Service on 133 677 (TTY) or 1300 555 727 (ordinary handset) and ask for 94904222.

Postal Address:

PO Box 94, Greensborough 3088 DX 97904 Ivanhoe

Council Service Centres:

Greensborough: Level 3, 1 Flintoff Street Ivanhoe: 4 Bond Street, Ivanhoe Rosanna: 72 Turnham Avenue (inside Rosanna Library)

Office Hours of Opening:

Greensborough & Ivanhoe: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm Rosanna: Monday – Friday 10am – 12noon and 1pm – 4pm

Interpreter service:

If you need an interpreter, please contact TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Banyule Council on 9490 4222.

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم. الرجاء الاتصال بالخط القومي لخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية TIS على الرقم 4222 9490. على الرقم 450 131. واطلبوا إيصالكم ببلدية بانيول على الرقم 4222 9490.

若你需要口譯員,請致電131 450聯絡TIS National,要求他們為你致電9490 4222接通Banyule市政廳。

Ako vam je potreban tumač, molimo vas, nazovite TIS National na broj 131 450 i zatražite da vas se spoji sa Vijećem općine Banyule na broj 9490 4222.

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα τηλεφωνήστε στην Εθνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων Μεταφραστών στον αριθμό 131 450 και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με τη Δημαρχία Banyule στο 9490 4222.

Se hai bisogno di un interprete chiama TIS National al numero 131 450 e chiedi di essere messo in comunicazione con il Comune di Banyule al numero 9490 4222.

Ако ви треба преведувач ве молиме јавете се на TIS National на 131 450 и замолете да ве поврзат со Banyule Council на 9490 4222.

如果你需要一名翻译,请打电话到国家电话翻译服务处(TIS National) 131 450,再转接到Banyule市政府9490 4222

Haddii aad u baahan tahay mutarjum wac khadka qaranka oo ah TIS 131 450 weydiina in lagugu xiro Degmada Banyule tel: 9490 4222.

Nếu cần thông dịch, xin gọi cho TIS Toàn Quốc qua số 131 450 rồi nhờ họ gọi cho Hội Đồng Thành Phố Banyule theo số 9490 4222 giùm quý vị.



