

## Surf Coast Shire Council

### Annual Action Plan 2020/2021 – Pest Plant & Animal Management Strategy

This annual Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with Council’s Pest Plant & Animal Management Strategy 2020-2023. The Plan outlines the key actions Council will be undertaking in the 2020/21 year to implement the five goals of the Strategy and ensure Council meets its legal obligations under the *Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994*. Council actions to support community and land management agencies (Goals 4 and 5) will be updated during the year.

An annual Progress Report on implementation of this Action Plan will be completed early each financial year. Copies of both the annual Action Plan and Progress Report will be posted on Council’s website [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au).

**Please note the proposed scheduling of works is subject to COVID 19 restrictions and contractor availability.**

| <b>Goal 1: Prevent new and emerging pest plant &amp; animal infestations within Surf Coast Shire</b>         |                          |  |                |
|--|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Timing</b>            | <b>Location/s</b>  | <b>Outcome</b> |
| Cape Tulip - media release, surveys and treatment work on municipal roadsides and Council owned/managed land | Late winter/early spring | Winchelsea, Buckley, Barrabool Hills, Modewarre, Moriac, Paraparap, and Bellbrae |                |
| Chilean & Texas Needle Grass – survey and treatment on municipal roadsides                                   | Autumn/& early spring    | Winchelsea, Gnarwarre, Barrabool Hills, Torquay, Connewarre                      |                |
| African Weed Orchid – survey and treatment on municipal roadsides and Council owned/managed land             | Spring                   | Airey’s Inlet, Bells Beach, Bellbrae, Freshwater Creek, Lorne                    |                |
| Rural roadsides - weed survey on municipal roadsides   | Autumn & spring          | Across the Shire   |                |

| Goal 2: Minimise the impact of established pest plants and animals on high value assets owned or managed by Council  |           |  |         |
|--|-----------|--|---------|
| Action   | Timing    | Location/s   | Outcome |
| <b>RABBITS</b><br>Rabbit Management Plans (for hotspot sites on Council owned/managed land): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-works spotlight count &amp; warren mapping &amp; input on RabbitScan – all plan sites</li> </ul> | January   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Mt Moriac Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Modewarre Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Pettavel &amp; Dickins Road reserves,</li> <li>• Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves</li> </ul> |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Management Plan actions – all sites</li> </ul>  | Feb-April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Mt Moriac Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Modewarre Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Pettavel &amp; Dickins Road reserves,</li> <li>• Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves</li> </ul> |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-works spotlight count &amp; site inspection (warren re-openings/new warrens) – all sites</li> </ul>  | April     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Mt Moriac Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Modewarre Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Pettavel &amp; Dickins Road reserves</li> <li>• Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves</li> </ul>  |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual plan review with stakeholders – all sites</li> </ul>   | April/May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Mt Moriac Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Modewarre Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Pettavel &amp; Dickins Road reserves</li> <li>• Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves</li> </ul>  |         |

**Goal 2: Minimise the impact of established pest plants and animals on high value assets owned or managed by Council cont'd**

| Action  | Timing | Location/s  | Outcome |
|---|--------|---|---------|
| <b>NATURE RESERVES</b>  |        |   |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rabbit management</li> </ul>   |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moonah Woodlands – warren fumigation twice yearly, ongoing warren close out, rabbit activity mapped on RabbitScan</li> <li>Dans and Rice Nature Reserves – warren fumigation, monitoring and continued harbour removal</li> <li>Greenfields – warren fumigation if required, continued harbour removal</li> <li>Fairylands – warren monitoring and close out as required, continued harbour removal</li> </ul> |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed management across all nature reserves in accordance with Council’s Weed Matrix (site &amp; species prioritisation)</li> </ul> <p>Note: Weed management at nature reserves includes weed treatment on a reserve specific basis and seasonally triggered weed control e.g. Wild Watsonia &amp; Serrated Tussock. Actions reported here cover a selection of priority nature reserves in terms of weed control</p> |        | <p>Reserve specific and seasonal weed treatments at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grasstree Park</li> <li>Painkalac Creek</li> <li>Deep Creek</li> <li>Spring Creek</li> <li>Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>  |         |

**Goal 2: Minimise the impact of established pest plants and animals on high value assets owned or managed by Council cont'd**

| Action  | Timing | Location/s   | Outcome |
|---|--------|--|---------|
| <b>HIGH CONSERVATION MUNICIPAL ROADSIDES</b>  |        |  |         |
| Weed management – survey and control.<br>Note: Treatment includes both declared noxious weeds and some environmental weeds, such as Bluebell Creeper & Sweet Pittosporum, when treatment coordinated in partnership with other land management agencies |        | As required, including Gherang, Aireys Inlet and Bamba |         |

**Goal 3: Ensure that Council meets its legal obligations regarding pest plant & animal management**

| Action   | Timing                | Location/s  | Outcome |
|--|-----------------------|---|---------|
| <p><b>Catchment &amp; Land Protection Act 1994</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[declared noxious weeds &amp; established pest animals]</li> </ul> <p>[addressed by work under previous goals]</p> |                       |   |         |
| <b>ROADSIDE WEEDS &amp; PESTS PROGRAM</b>  |                       |   |         |
| Liaise with Dept of Jobs, Precincts & Regions regarding 2020 – 2021 Control Plan priorities  | June – September 2020 |   |         |
| Deliver approved Roadside Weeds & Pests Control Plan works for 2020/21:  |                       |   |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serrated Tussock – herbicide</li> </ul>   | Oct & April           | Serrated Tussock containment line (north of Winchelsea through to Bellbrae) |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rabbits – warren and/or harbour removal</li> </ul>  | March to May          | Thompson/Freshwater Creek priority area                                     |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gorse and Blackberry – herbicide</li> </ul>   | March                 | Deans Marsh   |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cape Tulip – herbicide</li> </ul>   | Sept                  | Winchelsea/Buckley  |         |
| Complete acquittal report on 2020/21 program and submit to Local Government Victoria   | July 2021             |   |         |

**Goal 4: Coordinate and collaborate with community groups and land management agencies on pest plant and animal management**

| Action   | Timing    | Location/s   | Outcome |
|--|-----------|--|---------|
| <p><b>RABBITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to collaborate with GORCC, The Sands &amp; Parks Victoria and coordinate rabbit management work for Moonah Woodlands /The Sands/Whites Beach and Karaaf wetlands</li> <li>Develop Council’s Rabbit Management Plan for Moonah Woodlands</li> </ul>   | Mar-May   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whites Beach area, Moonah Woodlands, The Sands &amp; Karaaf Wetlands</li> </ul>   |         |
| <p><b>RABBITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the Rabbit Management Plan for Council owned/managed land within Winchelsea Township in collaboration with the Upper Barwon Landcare Network (UBLN) &amp; Winchelsea Land &amp; River Care and local residents.</li> <li>Annual review of the Plan with UBLN, Winchelsea Land &amp; River Care and interested local residents.</li> </ul> | Feb-April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bennett Reserve, Napthine Reserve, Barwon River Reserve, Mathison Reserve, Platypus Reserve</li> <li>Richmond/Lauder Lane</li> <li>Beal-Trebeck Reserve &amp; Willis Reserve</li> </ul> |         |
| <p><b>RABBITS</b></p> <p>Continue to seek clarification from the Registered Aboriginal Party, the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, regarding rabbit management in areas of high cultural heritage significance such as the Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve &amp; share any such clarification with Landcare partners and other relevant land management agencies.</p>   |           |  |         |
| <p><b>OTHER</b> (To be updated during the year as opportunities arise)</p>   |           |  |         |

| <b>Goal 5: Support Landcare and community pest plant and animal management initiatives and capacity building</b>  |                 |                   |                |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Timing</b>   | <b>Location/s</b> | <b>Outcome</b> |
| <b>RABBITS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the promotion of Landcare community rabbit control programs</li> </ul>  | Mid Jan - March |                   |                |
| <b>NATURE RESERVES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Community weeding &amp; planting events on Council owned/managed land (To be updated as opportunities arise during the year, subject to COVID-19 restrictions)</li> </ul> |                 |                   |                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase &amp; supply of locally indigenous plants to community groups for revegetation works on Council owned/managed land</li> </ul>   |                 |                   |                |
| <b>EVENT/PROJECT SPONSORSHIP</b><br>(To be updated during the year as opportunities arise – e.g. field days, publications etc)  |                 |                   |                |
| <b>CAPACITY BUILDING</b><br>(To be updated during the year as opportunities arise e.g. landholder outreach, expert speakers etc, subject to COVID-19 restrictions)  |                 |                   |                |