

Surf Coast Shire Council

Three Year Action Plan 2023-2025 – Pest Plant & Animal Management Strategy

This 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 each year over the coming three-year period 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 each financial year. The Three Year Action Plan 2023-2025 and Progress Report documents are available on Council’s website www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Goal 1: Prevent new and emerging pest plant & animal infestations within Surf Coast Shire			
Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
Cape Tulip – survey and treatment 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, Bambra, Bells Beach, Bellbrae, Freshwater Creek, Paraparap, Lorne, Winchelsea.	
African Lovegrass – survey and treatment on municipal roadsides	Spring/summer	Torquay north	
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
<p>RABBITS Ongoing rabbit management work across key sites, including survey and monitoring of rabbit activity (mapped on RabbitScan); removal of rabbit harbour; warren destruction (where possible); and fumigation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Creek sites including Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve, and various road reserves such as Pettavel, Dickins, Willowite, Loutitt Bay, Blackgate • Mt Moriac Rec Reserve • Modewarre Rec Reserve • Winchelsea sites including Bennett, Naphine, Barwon River, Mathison, Platypus, Beal-Trebeck Reserves; and the Richmond/Lauder Lane continuation. 	
<p>NATURE RESERVES</p>			
<p>Ongoing rabbit management work across key sites, including survey and monitoring of rabbit activity (mapped on RabbitScan); removal of rabbit harbour; warren destruction (where possible); and fumigation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moonah Woodlands • Dans and Rice Nature Reserves • Greenfields • Ocean Acres 	
<p>Weed management across all nature reserves in accordance with the Pest Plant & Animal Strategy Weed Matrix (site & species prioritisation) Note: Weed management at nature reserves includes weed treatment on a reserve specific basis and seasonally triggered weed control e.g., Wild Watsonia & 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 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasstree Park • Painkalac Creek • Deep Creek • Spring Creek 	

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
HIGH CONSERVATION MUNICIPAL ROADSIDES			
Weed management – survey and control. 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 Bellbrae, Paraparap, Gherang, Aireys Inlet and Bamba	
Goal 3: Ensure that Council meets its legal obligations regarding pest plant & animal management.			
Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declared noxious weeds & established pest animals - addressed by work under previous goals 			
ROADSIDE WEEDS & PESTS PROGRAM			
Liaise with Agriculture Victoria regarding Control Plan priorities	June – October		
Deliver approved Roadside Weeds & Pests Control Plan works for 2023/24:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serrated Tussock – herbicide 	Oct & April	Serrated Tussock containment line (north of Winchelsea through to Bellbrae)	

Goal 3: Ensure that Council meets its legal obligations regarding pest plant & animal management cont'd.

Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbits – warren and/or harbour removal 	February to May	Thompson/Freshwater Creek priority area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorse and Blackberry – herbicide 	March to April	Deans Marsh	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cape Tulip – herbicide 	September to October	Winchelsea/Buckley	
Complete acquittal report on the program and submit to Local Government Victoria	July		

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

Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
RABBITS - Torquay Continue to collaborate with land managers GORCAPA and The Sands and coordinate rabbit management work.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whites Beach area, Moonah Woodlands, The Sands & Karaaf Wetlands 	
Dob in a Fox Den community program partnership with Parks Victoria	August to October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Other:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	

Goal 5: Support Landcare and community pest plant and animal management initiatives and capacity building

Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
Support Landcare and community pest plant and animal initiatives and capacity building through Council's Natural Environment Grants available in March and September of each year.			
<p>NATURE RESERVES</p> <p>Support community weeding & planting events on Council owned/managed land.</p>			