

Surf Coast Shire Council

Annual Action Plan 2019/2020 – Pest Plant & Animal Management Strategy

This annual Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with Council's Pest Plant & Animal Management Strategy. The Plan outlines the key actions Council will be undertaking in the 2019/20 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 provided to Council, circulated by email to key Landcare, community and agency stakeholders and posted 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 - Community mailout, media release, surveys and treatment work	Late winter/early spring	Winchelsea, Buckley, Barrabool Hills, Modewarre, Moriac, Paraparap, and Bellbrae	
Chilean & Texas Needle Grass – survey and treatment on roadsides	Autumn/& early spring	Winchelsea, Gnarwarre, Barrabool Hills, Torquay, Connewarre	
African Weed Orchid – survey and treatment	Spring	Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae, Freshwater Creek	
Rural roadsides - weed survey	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</p> <p>Rabbit Management Plans (for hotspot sites on Council owned/managed land):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-works spotlight count & rapid rabbit assessment – all plan sites 	January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve • Mt Moriac Rec Reserve • Modewarre Rec Reserve • Pettavel & Dickins Road reserves, • Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Management Plan actions – all sites 	Feb-April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve • Mt Moriac Rec Reserve • Modewarre Rec Reserve • Pettavel & Dickins Road reserves, • Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-works spotlight count & rapid rabbit assessment – all sites 	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve • Mt Moriac Rec Reserve • Modewarre Rec Reserve • Pettavel & Dickins Road reserves • Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual plan review with stakeholders – all sites 	May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve • Mt Moriac Rec Reserve • Modewarre Rec Reserve • Pettavel & Dickins Road reserves • Loutitt Bay Road/Woodland Road reserves 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Rabbit Management Plan for Moonah Woodlands 	July/Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moonah Woodlands Nature Reserve, Torquay 	

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
NATURE RESERVES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbit management 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonah Woodlands – warren fumigation twice yearly, ongoing warren close out, new rabbit activity mapped on Rabbitscan Dans and Rice Nature Reserves – warren fumigation twice yearly, continued harbour removal Greenfields – warren fumigation if required, continued harbour removal Fairyland – warren monitoring and close out as required, continued harbour removal 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed management across all nature reserves in accordance with Council’s Weed Matrix (site & species prioritisation) <p>Weed management at nature reserves includes weed treatment on a reserve specific basis and seasonally triggered weed control eg 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 at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grasstree Park Painkalac Creek Deep Creek Winchelsea Common Coogoorah Park 	
HIGH CONSERVATION ROADSIDES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbit management – survey and 		As required	

treatment (fumigation)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weed management – survey and control. Treatment includes both declared noxious weeds and some environmental weeds such as Bluebell Creeper		As required	

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

Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
<p>Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [declared noxious weeds & established pest animals] <p>[addressed by work under previous goals]</p>			
<p>ROADSIDE WEEDS & PESTS PROGRAM</p> <p>Deliver approved Roadside Weeds & Pests Control Plan works for 2019/20:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serrated Tussock – spray herbicide 	Oct & April	Serrated Tussock containment line (north of Winchelsea through to Bellbrae)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbits – warren and/or harbour removal 	March to May	Thompson/Freshwater Creek priority area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorse and Blackberry – spray herbicide 	March	Deans Marsh	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cape Tulip – spray herbicide 	Sept	Winchelsea/Buckley	
Complete acquittal report on 2018/19 program and submit to Local Government Victoria	July 2019		

Liaise with Dept of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources regarding 2019 – 2021 Control Plan priorities	June – September 2019		
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Goal 4: Coordinate and collaborate with community groups and land management agencies on pest plant and animal management

Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
<p>RABBITS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate with GORCC, The Sands & Parks Victoria and coordinate rabbit management work for Moonah Woodlands /The Sands/Whites Beach and Karaaf wetlands In developing Council’s Rabbit Management Plan for Moonah Woodlands, explore opportunities to capture coordinated works in Council’s Plan. 	July - Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whites Beach area, Moonah Woodlands, The Sands & Karaaf Wetlands 	
<p>RABBITS</p> <p>Develop Rabbit Management Plan for Council owned/managed land within Winchelsea township in collaboration with the Upper Barwon Landcare Network & Winchelsea Land & River Care and local residents.</p>	July - Sep		
<p>OTHER (To be updated during the year as opportunities arise)</p>			
<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
<p>RABBITS</p> <p>Coordinate Community Baiting program mail-outs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrabool Hills Landcare Group • Surf Coast Rabbit Action Network (SCRAN) • Surf Coast & Inland Plains Network (SCIPN) 	<p>Mid Jan</p>	<p>Mail-outs include Barrabool Hills/ Gnarwarre/Buckley North, and the Thompson Creek valley area from Moriac to Connewarre with focus on Freshwater Creek. Torquay/Bellbrae.</p>	
<p>NATURE RESERVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Community weeding & planting events on Council owned/managed land (To be updated as opportunities arise during the year) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiksilver Foundation Day – Spring Creek • Rip Curl Planet Day – various reserves including Bells Beach • RACV day Jan Juc Creek • Staff – National Tree Day 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase & supply of locally indigenous plants to community groups for revegetation works on Council owned/managed land 			
<p>EVENT/PROJECT SPONSORSHIP</p> <p>(To be updated during the year as opportunities arise – e.g. field days, publications etc)</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			

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CAPACITY BUILDING (To be updated during the year as opportunities arise e.g. landholder outreach, expert speakers etc)			
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