



# Pest Plant and Animal Strategy 2019 - 2022

SUMMARY

Surf Coast Shire Council is committed to improving pest plant and animal management in the shire, in partnership with local Landcare and community groups, other land managers and local landholders.

We are currently seeking feedback on our draft Pest Plant and Animal Strategy, including an annual Action Plan.

## VISION

*In the Surf Coast Shire, all landholders work effectively together to eradicate or control pest plants and animals.*

## GOALS

The five goals of the Strategy are to:

1. **prevent** new and emerging pest plant and animal infestations within Surf Coast Shire
2. **minimise** the impact of established pest plants and animals on land owned or managed by Council, which is of high ecological, social or economic value
3. **ensure** that Council meets its legal obligations when managing pest plants and animals
4. **work** with community groups and land management agencies to manage pest plants and animals
5. **support** Landcare and community pest plant and animal management initiatives and capacity building.

## PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide Council's pest plant and animal management work:

### 1. Prevention

Prevention and early intervention so that new pest plants and animals do not establish is generally more cost-effective than ongoing management of established pest plants and animals.

### 2. Shared Responsibility

Landholders, community, industry and government share responsibility for effective pest plant and animal management. Each landholder is legally responsible for pest plant and animal management on land they own or manage.

### 3. Community Partnerships

Council will continue to promote and support active involvement in pest plant and animal management by the community, Landcare and conservation groups.

### 4. Coordination

Whenever possible, Council will collaborate and coordinate with other land managers, to manage pest plants and animals effectively.

### 5. Asset protection

When managing established pest plants and animals, Council will focus its efforts on protecting the high value assets (environmental, social and economic) that it owns or manages.

### 6. Harm Minimisation

Control methods for pest animals should be humane and limit impact on non-target species. Humane, safe and effective control practices go hand in hand. Weed control should target specific plant types, be effective, and minimise effects on the wider environment.

### 7. Ongoing commitment

Because pest plant and animal management is most effective where resources can be sustained over a prolonged period, Council will only invest in pest plant and animal management work it can continue to maintain

## A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

We will manage pest plants and animals in the shire in partnership with the community, Landcare and other conservation groups and land managers.

### We will:

- focus on a shire-wide view of pest plant and animal management
- implement a 'biosecurity approach' focusing on prevention, eradication (where possible), containment and asset protection
- prioritise preventing new and emerging species from establishing in the shire
- protect high value assets first when tackling established pest plants and animals.

## ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AND REPORTING

Council officers will prepare a pest plant and animal management Action Plan each July, outlining Council actions for the next 12 months, reflecting the five goals of this Strategy. An annual progress report will then be presented to Council each year, outlining what was achieved from the previous year's plan.

We will invite local Landcare and community groups that are working with Council on pest plant and animal management to include their key proposed actions in the annual Action Plan and to report on their progress in Council's annual Pest Plant and Animal Management Report.



This is a summary of the *Draft Pest Plant and Animal Strategy*, including an annual Action Plan, that is currently available for feedback.

To view the full Strategy, and to share your feedback, go to [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/yoursay](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/yoursay)

