

## Surf Coast Shire Council

### Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 – 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 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 Action Plan 2023-2024 and Progress Report documents are available on Council’s website [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au).

<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 – 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><b>RABBITS</b> Ongoing <b>rabbit management work</b> 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"> <li>• Freshwater Creek sites including Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve, and various road reserves such as Pettavel, Dickins, Willowite, Loutitt Bay, Blackgate</li> <li>• Mt Moriac Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Modewarre Rec Reserve</li> <li>• Winchelsea sites including Bennett, Naphine, Barwon River, Mathison, Platypus, Beal-Trebeck Reserves; and the Richmond/Lauder Lane continuation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>NATURE RESERVES</b></p>			
<p>Ongoing <b>rabbit management work</b> 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"> <li>• Moonah Woodlands</li> <li>• Dans and Rice Nature Reserves</li> <li>• Greenfields</li> <li>• Ocean Acres</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Weed management</b> across all nature reserves in accordance with the Pest Plant &amp; Animal Strategy Weed Matrix (site &amp; 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 &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 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grasstree Park</li> <li>• Painkalac Creek</li> <li>• Deep Creek</li> <li>• Spring Creek</li> </ul>	

<b>Goal 2: Minimise the impact of established pest plants and animals on high value assets owned or managed by Council cont'd.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Location/s</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>HIGH CONSERVATION MUNICIPAL ROADSIDES</b>			
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	
<b>Goal 3: Ensure that Council meets its legal obligations regarding pest plant &amp; animal management.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Location/s</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Catchment &amp; Land Protection Act 1994</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared noxious weeds &amp; established pest animals - addressed by work under previous goals</li> </ul>			
<b>ROADSIDE WEEDS &amp; PESTS PROGRAM</b>			
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"> <li>Serrated Tussock – herbicide</li> </ul>	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"> <li>Rabbits – warren and/or harbour removal</li> </ul>	February to May	Thompson/Freshwater Creek priority area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gorse and Blackberry – herbicide</li> </ul>	March to April	Deans Marsh	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cape Tulip – herbicide</li> </ul>	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
<b>RABBITS - Torquay</b> Continue to collaborate with land managers GORCAPA and The Sands and coordinate rabbit management work.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whites Beach area, Moonah Woodlands.</li> </ul>	
Dob in a Fox Den community program partnership with Parks Victoria	August to October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
Other:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	

**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><b>NATURE RESERVES</b></p> <p>Support community weeding &amp; planting events on Council owned/managed land.</p>			