

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
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.		<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, Naphthine, Barwon River, Mathison, Platypus, Beal-Trebeck Reserves; and the Richmond/Lauder Lane continuation. 	
NATURE RESERVES			
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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonah Woodlands Dans and Rice Nature Reserves Greenfields Ocean Acres 	
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.		Reserve specific and seasonal weed treatments include: <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 Bambra	
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.			
NATURE RESERVES Support community weeding & planting events on Council owned/managed land.			