

Surf Coast Shire Council

Annual Action Plan 2022/2023 – 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 in the 2022/23 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 posted on Council’s website www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Please note - the proposed scheduling of works is subject to COVID 19 restrictions and contractor availability.

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 Continue ongoing implementation of the Rabbit Management Plans for former hotspot sites on Council owned/managed land. Actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-works spotlight count & warren mapping & input on RabbitScan; • Rabbit control works as required • Post-works spotlight count & site inspection (warren re-openings/new warrens) – all sites • Review of actions with stakeholders as required. 	<p>January-April</p>	<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 	
<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 • Fairylands 	
<p>Weed management across all nature reserves in accordance with the Pest Plant & Animal Strategy Weed Matrix (site & species prioritisation)</p> <p>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 at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasstree Park • Painkalac Creek • Deep Creek • Spring Creek • Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve 	

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, Bells Beach, 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 Dept of Jobs, Precincts & Regions regarding 2022 – 2023 Control Plan priorities	June – September 2022		
Deliver approved Roadside Weeds & Pests Control Plan works for 2022/23:			
<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 	March to May	Thompson/Freshwater Creek priority area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorse and Blackberry – herbicide 	March	Deans Marsh	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cape Tulip – herbicide 	Sept	Winchelsea/Buckley	
Complete acquittal report on 2022/23 program and submit to Local Government Victoria	July 2023		
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 GORCAPA, The Sands & Parks Victoria and coordinate rabbit management work for Moonah Woodlands / The Sands/Whites Beach and Karaaf wetlands	Mar-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whites Beach area, Moonah Woodlands, The Sands & Karaaf Wetlands 	
RABBITS - Winchelsea Implement the Rabbit Management Plan for Council owned/managed land within Winchelsea Township	Feb-April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserves including: Bennett Naphine, Barwon River, Mathison, Platypus, Beal-Trebeck Richmond/Lauder Lane continuation 	

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

Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
<p>RABBITS - Cultural Heritage Continue to seek clarification from the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party as required, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, regarding rabbit management in areas of high cultural heritage significance such as the Freshwater Creek Rec Reserve & share any such clarification with Landcare partners and other relevant land management agencies.</p>			
<p>OTHER (To be updated during the year as opportunities arise)</p>			

Goal 5: Support Landcare and community pest plant and animal management initiatives and capacity building			
Action	Timing	Location/s	Outcome
RABBITS Support the promotion of Landcare community rabbit control programs	Mid Jan - March	Barrabool Hills and Freshwater Creek	
NATURE RESERVES Support community weeding & planting events on Council owned/managed land (To be updated as opportunities arise during the year, subject to COVID-19 restrictions)			
Purchase & supply of locally indigenous plants to community groups for revegetation works on Council owned/managed land			
EVENT/PROJECT SPONSORSHIP (To be updated during the year as opportunities arise – e.g. field days, publications etc)			
CAPACITY BUILDING (To be updated during the year as opportunities arise e.g. landholder outreach, expert speakers etc, subject to COVID-19 restrictions)			