

Action plan

Table 1. Annual cost of action plan

| Year | Council funding per year (existing) | Additional Council funding (per year) sought | External funding (per year) sought | Total proposed implementation costs |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2022/23 | | 65,000 | 10,000 | 75,000 |
| 2023/24 | | 55,000 | 10,000 | 65,000 |
| 2024/25 | | 65,000 | 25,000 | 90,000 |
| 2025/26 | | 65,000 | 25,000 | 90,000 |
| 2026/27 | | 85,000 | 10,000 | 95,000 |
| 2027/28 | | 75,000 | 10,000 | 85,000 |
| 2028/29 | | 125,000 | 25,000 | 150,000 |
| 2029/30 | | 65,000 | 25,000 | 90,000 |
| 2030/31 | | 50,000 | 10,000 | 60,000 |
| 2031/32 | | 80,000 | | 80,000 |
| Total | | 730,000 | 150,000 | 880,000 |

Table 2. Biolink action plan

| No. | Action | Action duration | Timeframe | Lead | Partner | Council funding per year (existing) | Council funding per year (additional) | Total funding per year | Total Council funding over the life of the 10-year plan | External funding required over the life of the plan | Total funding over the life of the 10-year plan | Comments |
|-----|---|-----------------|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Develop a map of bushfire hazard landscape types to inform biolink conservation actions | 1 year | 2022-23 | Environment and Heritage | Policy design and growth area planning, Emergency Management | | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | | 10,000 | |
| 2. | Seek approval from the Municipal fire management planning committee on biolink landscape scale proposals | Ongoing | | Environment and Heritage | Emergency Management, CFA, DELWP | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Undertake fire behaviour modelling to inform the design of a demonstration biolink corridor in Koo Wee Rup | 1 year | 2023-24 | Environment and Heritage | Emergency Management | | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | | 5,000 | The first demonstration site is predominantly revegetation so can be done from the desktop for \$5,000. |
| 4. | Undertake fire behaviour modelling to inform the design of a demonstration biolink corridor in Upper Pakenham. | 1 year | 2027-28 | Environment and Heritage | Emergency Management | | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | | 15,000 | The second demonstration site is more complex than the first (action 3) and would be assessing remnant vegetation and requires site assessment\$15,000. |
| 5. | Implement two demonstration biolink (Koo Wee Rup and Upper Pakenham) to show the practical application of environmental and fuel management outcomes within the same corridor. | 4 years | 2024-25 to 2025-26 and 2028-29 to 2029-30 | Environment and Heritage | Operations – Bushland team | | 15,000 | 15,000 | 60,000 | 60,000 | 120,000 | |
| 6. | Establish a framework to facilitate ecological burning on private land. | 3 year | 2022-23 to 2024-25 | Emergency Management | Environment and Heritage | | | | | | | |
| 7. | Implement targeted pest animal program at three locations on public land with incentives for private land informed by the Eastern Region Pest Animal Plan. | 9 year | 2022-23 to 2030-31 | Operations – Bushland team (Council land) and Environment and Heritage (Private land) | | | 40,000 | 40,000 | 360,000 | 90,000 | 450,000 | Contingent on new Biodiversity Officer (as identified in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy) |
| 8. | Support academic research into local changes in forest fuel loads, comparing locations where fox control has had an impact on lyrebird populations. | 3 years | 2026-27 to 2028-29 | Environment and Heritage | Operations – Bushland team | | 10,000 | 10,000 | 30,000 | | 30,000 | Contingent on new Biodiversity Officer (as identified in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy) |
| 9. | Provide an annual contribution to engage a regional pest animal officer (as per Council resolution on 21 September 2020) to oversee the implementation of <i>Eastern Regional Pest Animal Plan</i> | 9 years | 2022-23 to 2030-31 | Environment and Heritage | | | 10,000 | 10,000 | 90,000 | | 90,000 | |
| 10. | Undertake a study of unconstructed government roads, liaising with DELWP to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the delegated land manager for each reserve (including licence arrangements) | 1 year | 2026-27 | Governance | Environment and Heritage Operations – Open Space team | | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | | 25,000 | |

| No. | Action | Action duration | Timeframe | Lead | Partner | Council funding per year (existing) | Council funding per year (additional) | Total funding per year | Total Council funding over the life of the 10-year plan | External funding required over the life of the plan | Total funding over the life of the 10-year plan | Comments |
|-----|---|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm those that have been gazetted and formally closed. This will inform where unconstructed roads can become future biolinks | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. | Provide training for community friends groups and the Bushland reserves team to meet <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> requirements for biolinks along waterways that are listed under the Act. | 1 year | 2022-23 | Environment and Heritage | Safe and inclusive communities Operations – Bushland team | | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | | 5,000 | |
| 12. | Undertake a study of private land along the coast to inform the development of future integrated property plans (that balance environmental, drainage and agricultural values) and the establishment of a coastal buffer. | 1 year | 2028-29 | Environment and Heritage | Policy design and growth area planning | | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | | 50,000 | |
| 13. | Support environmental and safety objectives through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fire behaviour research along roadsides shelterbelt design research | Ongoing | | Emergency Management | Environment and Heritage | | | | | | | |
| 14. | Collaborate with Melbourne Water to find synergies in areas where their priority works align with biolink plan priorities | Ongoing | | Environment and Heritage | Melbourne Water | | | | | | | |
| 15. | Review of the Biolink Plan | 1 year | 2031-32 | Environment and Heritage | Whole of Council | | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 0 | 80,000 | |

Table 3. List of actions from Biodiversity Conservation Strategy that are supported by the Biolink Plan

| No.* | Action | How the Biolink plan supports this action |
|------|--|---|
| 6 | Continue to implement pet restrictions as part of the planning permit process in high priority areas to protect threatened species | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 8 | Develop and implement a cat and dog management awareness program to reduce impacts on biodiversity (focus on protection of southern brown bandicoot) | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 9 | Develop three priority threatened species action plans by 2028 | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority threatened species actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 10 | Identify Council and Crown land committees of management responsible for open space that contain indigenous vegetation and implement an environmental education program. | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority threatened species actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 11 | Seek external funding to assist Council and Crown land committees of management for support in land management activities | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority threatened species actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 13 | Liaise with local aboriginal groups over the annual Council natural resource area works plans | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority threatened species actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 15 | Continue to support Eastern Region Pest Animal Network initiatives including the development of a regional Pest Animal Management Plan | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority threatened species actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 16 | Annually report on the revegetation outputs of the Council grant program | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused and reported on within Cardinia Shire. |

| No.* | Action | How the Biolink plan supports this action |
|------|--|---|
| 20 | Continue to provide funds to manage Cardinia's significant NRA's in accordance with the bushland asset costing plan (excluding weed control) | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 21 | Annually seek capital works budget for significant reserve works | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 22 | Undertake roadside vegetation assessments and install signage | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 23 | Annually plant 10,000 plants in Council reserves and on public manage land to meet objective 2.2 | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 25 | Investigate staff resources required to adequately manage Council's natural resource areas including the provision of community support | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where Council has a legislative obligation to protect threatened species and ensure listed populations do not deteriorate. Priority conservation areas to allocate management resources are identified within the plan. |
| 27 | Develop a prioritised inventory of natural resource areas requiring reserve management plans and complete one plan every second year (utilising a consultant) starting from 2021-22 | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 29 | Undertake shire wide biodiversity monitoring program on private properties and for threatened species to assist with reporting against strategy objectives | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat to guide monitoring programs. The plan identifies a rationale to identify 15 fauna indicator species to more broadly inform on species health. |
| 30 | Undertake biodiversity monitoring in priority NRA's to inform on biodiversity health and enable evaluation of reserve management and assist with reporting against strategy objectives | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat to guide monitoring programs. The plan identifies a rationale to identify 15 fauna indicator species to more broadly inform on species health. |
| 31 | Purchase of multispectral imagery through coordinated imagery program (CIP) in DELWP to provide biodiversity analysis and assist with reporting against strategy objectives | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat to guide monitoring programs and to more broadly inform on species health. |
| 32 | Coordinate the development of a roadside management plan. Consultancy cost to develop the plan | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 33 | Undertake roadside vegetation community liaison and education | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 34 | Annually provide 20 plants for 150 private landholders and schools (2250 plants) to meet objective 2.2 | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 35 | Increase the 2018-19 Trust for Nature rate rebate to meet CPI | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 37 | Extend the existing annual Landcare Bandicoot habitat planting -10,000 plants to meet objective 2.2 | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 38 | Support community led catchment-based biodiversity projects e.g. Cannibal Creek Catchment and Cardinia Creek Nature Links | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 39 | Identify and consider strategic land purchases that enhance Cardinia's biodiversity | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 50 | Increase the existing biodiversity incentive grant to community group initiatives on private and public land to conserve threatened species | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |

*action number as per Council's *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*

Table 4. List of actions from Weed Management Strategy that are supported by the Biolink Plan

| No.* | Action | How the Biolink plan supports this action |
|------|--|--|
| 1 | Continue to develop annual weed control programs for bushland reserves and road reserves, as part of a rolling treatment roster (1-3 years) | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 2 | Continue to collaborate with partner agencies, community groups and landholders, to plan and implement weed programs. | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused to protect threatened species within Cardinia Shire. |
| 3 | Seek external funds to continue the Emerald Lake Park Vegetation Management Project. | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 7 | Seek budget allocation to undertake weed mapping to inform a new GIS weed layer for Council bushlands and road reserves (to assist in the development of annual weed control programs). | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. The plan informs on the minimum data resolution that is required to successfully achieve this action. |
| 8 | Seek funding for a future stage of the Cannibal Creek Catchment Biodiversity Project (beyond 2021) and continue Council's funding co-contribution to the project. | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 14 | Continue to inform key public land managers of weed priorities in Cardinia and encourage a strategic long-term approach to weed control, including addressing any concerns of weeds on adjoining council and private land. | Biolink plan will help to define the location of 'key public land managers' |
| 16 | Continue to act as lead agency and work in collaboration with stakeholders involved in the current Peri Urban Weed Partnerships Project, (2019-2021) | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 17 | Expand annual weed reduction programs for Council bushlands | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 18 | Seek annual funding allocation for roadside weeds program, to match Victorian Government contribution through the Roadside Weeds and Pests Animal Program | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies Council reserves where priority conservation management actions will best benefit biodiversity. |
| 22 | Seek funding for a future stage of the Peri Urban Weed Partnerships Project (beyond 2021), and continue Council's funding co-contribution to the project | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |
| 26 | Expand the Weed Control Grant program. | The biolink plan maps the most important areas of habitat and identifies locations where priority conservation management actions can be focused within Cardinia Shire. |

*action number as per Council's *Weed Management Strategy*