

Vision

“Yarra Ranges is a place of healthy, resilient and connected natural living landscapes. Our community actively care for and feel a deep connection to nature.”



Yarra Ranges Council Nature Plan Years 1-2

What is nature and biodiversity?

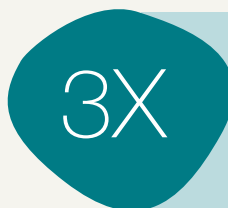
Nature defines our natural world of plants, animals, fungi and bacteria, and the ecosystems they are a part of, and the ecological processes they sustain.

Biodiversity describes the genetic diversity within the organisms, populations and species and the diversity within and between the ecosystems that provide habitat for all life forms.

Targets



Yarra Ranges achieves an overall 'net gain' in native vegetation cover by 2034



Triple restoration and revegetation works across private and council-managed land per annum



Increase the conservation value across our bushland reserve network over the next 10 years



Engage at least 200 land stewards in council-led programs each year to improve the biodiversity on their land

Protecting nature

Our inclusive approach

The development of the plan

The Nature Plan 2024-34 (the Plan) establishes guiding principles designed to protect and enhance the unique nature in the Yarra Ranges. Each theme is supported by a set of actions that will enable us to achieve our vision and targets. Extensive community consultation was undertaken during the Plan's development and is reflected in the final Plan.

**Stakeholders include; council advisory committees, land managers and agencies, sector professionals and community groups.*



Working together to build resilience against the changing climate

Our inclusive approach is centered around community consultation during Plan development and continued community engagement during the implementation phase.

Community members are encouraged to engage with Council programs to support biodiversity on their own property, participate in our education programs and volunteer time to a local environmental project.

Council invests significantly to protect the environment through weed control programs; incentive programs supporting positive

environmental outcomes on private land; undertaking statutory functions as required by the planning scheme; and, education and partnership with community volunteers focussed on environmental protection.

For more information on how you can get involved visit yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Why is Yarra Ranges' nature and biodiversity important?

- Yarra Ranges includes some of the most significant environmental areas in Victoria.
- Council plays a critical role in biodiversity conservation, advocacy and partnerships.
- Council-managed bushland areas comprise 550ha of reserves and 403km of roadsides.

Planning for the next generation

Our priority areas

Guiding Principles

Our natural environment is **deeply valued** and we foster a shared deep **connection** to nature.

We **protect** and **enhance biodiversity** assets through **evidence-based decision making** and monitoring, evaluating and reporting on our progress.

We **collaborate** across tenures and **integrate** traditional owner knowledge and cultural practices.

Landscapes & Ecosystems



Habitats and the biodiversity within are holistically understood to enhance the resilience of native flora and fauna populations, enabling our ecosystems from land and water to flourish.

Rare and threatened species and ecosystems are protected and restored across the landscape, ensuring thriving species in connected habitats.

Land Use & Changing Climate



Statutory and strategic planning processes enable best practice land management through integrated planning.

Partner with our community to build ecosystem resilience for a climate-change ready future.

Pest Plants & Animals



Management of pest plants and animals minimises impacts to native flora, fauna and their ecosystems.

Collaboration and partnerships underpin successful landscape scale pest plant and animal programs across the municipality.

People & Nature



Traditional owners are empowered to engage in cultural land management practices on Country within Yarra Ranges.

Our community has access to and a deep connection with nature; they are inspired to take action to actively care for the environment and create a legacy for our future.

The next two years



Action 1.1

Develop a Biolinks Plan to identify and restore important corridors for biodiversity protection and enhancement across the municipality in partnership with community and agencies.

Action 1.3

Undertake vegetation surveys to measure change in native vegetation cover across Yarra Ranges to report on our target.

Action 1.4

Establish an opt-in monitoring program of biodiversity assets on private land within Yarra Ranges, to better understand the ecological values and inform decision making for statutory and strategic planning.

Action 2.3

Implement sustainable bushfire reduction works which achieve net biodiversity benefit in collaboration with relevant agencies. Incorporate cultural burning practices to support biodiversity improvements.

Action 2.4

Increase restoration and revegetation activities across the existing bushland reserve network with a focus on improving conservation values, enhancing habitat corridors and supporting threatened species and their habitats through the municipality.

Action 3.2

Collaborate with land managers to address the prevalence of feral deer across Yarra Ranges, through partnerships, funding programs, education of residents and advocacy to achieve an overall reduction in the impact of deer.

Action 3.3

Utilise prioritisation matrix, Biolinks Plan and updated levels of service to develop Bushland Reserve Management Plans for high priority reserves, with emphasis on invasive species that drive ecological change.

Action 3.5

Facilitate strategic development of municipal pest action plans as part of legislative requirements, support community pest animal programs and collaborate with the Eastern Region Pest Animal Network.

Action 4.3

Enhance biodiversity in urban townships through increase in street tree cover and habitat planting, along with expanding community support through Gardens 4 Wildlife.

Action 4.4

Support council network of environmental volunteers, including Friends of groups, Landcare networks and others to undertake direct action and community led knowledge sharing of environmental values.

We will keep you updated by monitoring our progress

The Plan will be assessed and reported on regularly to review progress and balance the changing dynamics of our political, social and environmental landscape.

This will enable continuous improvement and adaptive management. For more information see the Nature Plan.

Actions subject to funding availability. For more information please see the Nature Plan. yarraranges.vic.gov.au