

6.5 Activity Reports

6.5.1 Environment Council Plan Initiatives Quarterly Report

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Recommendation(s)

That this report be noted

Attachments

1. Environment Council Plan initiatives quarterly report - July 2023 [6.5.1.1 - 15 pages]

Executive Summary

This quarterly report provides an update on projects, services and actions that are undertaken by Council to deliver on the Council Plan focus area number three: thriving environments and its associated initiatives.

Priority: We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive

We place a high value on our natural assets and biodiversity. We take action to help our natural assets and biodiversity thrive and build their resilience to climate change and natural hazards. We enhance green spaces and habitat links, support our communities to live sustainably, and champion sustainable development and waste management practices.

Initiatives

The initiatives have been categorised according to the *Sustainable Environment Policy (SEP) 2018- 28* themes of: Biodiversity, Climate change, Water, Waste and resource recovery.

The SEP is the roadmap for the future direction of Council's environmental and sustainability strategies, plans and activities.

Background

There are a broad range of projects, services and actions delivering environmental benefits throughout the organisation. While many of these occur within or are led by the Environment and Infrastructure Group, most of the organisation is involved in environmental sustainability to some degree.

Council Plan initiatives and how they link to the *Sustainable Environment Policy* themes:

- Biodiversity
 - Implement initiatives in the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*
- Climate change
 - Implement initiatives in the *Aspirational Energy Transition Plan*
- Water
 - Implement initiatives in the *Integrated Water Management Plan*
- Waste and resource recovery
 - Implement the action plan for the *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy*

This report also covers the Council Plan initiative *actively protect key heritage sites within the shire*.

Project update

Projects and updates are included in the attached report

Biodiversity

Council Plan initiative

- Implement initiatives in the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*

This section also includes updates on the implementation of the *Weed Management Strategy*

Cardinia Creek Catchment Deer Partnership Project

Description	<p>Council is the lead agency in the Victorian Government funded Cardinia Creek Catchment Deer Partnership Project. This is a multi-agency partnership between Council, Parks Victoria, Cardinia Environment Coalition and Cardinia Deer Management Coalition.</p> <p>The program aims to deliver deer control, fencing, research and educational programs in the Cardinia Creek catchment, to protect extensive areas of intact, high value remnant vegetation, including riparian corridors.</p>
Funding	This project is fully funded by the Victorian Government
Update	As part of the project, contractors and Council officers conducted drone surveys with thermal cameras to determine deer numbers and density at Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve, Brennan Avenue bushland and Stoney Creek Reserve. Council also hosted an on-line forum in conjunction with the Invasive Species Council which was attended by 60 participants.

Peri Urban Weed Management Partnership

Description	The Peri-urban Weed Management Partnerships (PWMP) program provides \$4 million of funding from 2021- 2025 to protect native plant and animal species in Melbourne's peri-urban areas from high-risk weeds.
Funding	This program is jointly funded by Council, the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action with contributions from other program partners, including in-kind contributions.
Update	<p>Cardinia Shire was successful in securing funding through the Victorian Governments Peri Urban Weed Management Partnership Program. The funding will be received over three years to deliver the 2021- 2025 Cardinia catchment rehabilitation project in conjunction with project partners Parks Victoria and the Cardinia Environment Coalition.</p> <p>Council is the lead agency and will support weed management across approximately 330ha of public land. The program supports the management of Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve, Stoney Creek Reserve and Brennan's Reserve including project works, employing a project facilitator and building stronger connections with traditional landowners.</p>

City nature challenge results

Description	From 28 April to 1 May Cardinia Shire joined more than 20 councils across Greater Melbourne in participating in one of the world's biggest community science events – the City Nature Challenge!
Funding	This initiative is supported by Council
Update	The Cardinia Shire community recorded 90 different species of incredible plants, fungi and animals. Greater Melbourne region came in 21st in the world with 19,303 observations by 941 observers across 2356 species. The data collected through iNaturalist during the challenge contributes to scientific research and helps us better understand and protect our biodiversity.

Weed Control Grant Program

Description	Weed control grants are available to help landowners and community groups control noxious and environmental weeds on private property, both in areas of high environmental and agricultural value. The grant is available to residents and community groups doing weed control work in Cardinia Shire. Community groups may include Landcare and 'Friends of' groups, or larger community and neighbourhood projects.
Funding	This program is fully funded by Council
Update	Council's weed control grant program opened in August 2022 and attracted 151 applications with 118 applicants receiving a grant by the closing date of the program (end of May).

Pakenham Secondary College planting days

Description	Henty Lily Pond Beautification works with Pakenham Secondary College
Funding	This project was jointly funded by South East Water and Council
Update	On Thursday 18 May Council partnered with Pakenham Secondary College to plant 800 indigenous local native plants in the north-eastern corner of Henty Lily Pond. This has been an 18-month project in collaboration with the school, Western Port Landcare, South East Water and Council to transform a weedy overgrown school frontage of the lilypond into an important native habitat zone that will attract native animals while enabling students to further their studies. The project improved the habitat quality of the reserve, supported the school to manage their land adjoining the wetland and allowed educational activities to be undertaken in the bushland and wetland. Works included the removal of high threat weeds, revegetation with 800 indigenous plants including indigenous food plants and the spread of mulch. Council has also removed weeds and planted indigenous plants along the adjacent Council land at Henty Lilypond. This has been a fantastic collaboration project and officers are looking forward to undertaking further conservation work with the school in 2023-24.

Gardens for wildlife workshop wrap up

Description	On 29 April, 27 May and 24 June Council ran a workshop series to help residents learn more about some of the joys and challenges of gardening for wildlife in Cardinia Shire.
Funding	These workshops were fully funded by Council
Update	<p>Helen from Sustainable Gardening Australia taught us how to support native bees and butterflies in our garden.</p> <p>Eilish from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria helped us get to know the nationally endangered southern brown bandicoot.</p> <p>Teresa from Sustainable Gardening Australia ran a lively workshop on how to balance productive gardening and supporting wildlife.</p> <p>The workshops were hosted by the Cardinia Environment Coalition at the indigenous plant nursery at Deep Creek Reserve and coincided with Council's annual plant giveaway. Attendees reported that the sessions were informative and presenters infectiously enthusiastic, and lots of productive discussion between attendees was observed.</p>

Biolink plan update

Description	Biolink community and stakeholder engagement
Funding	This initiative is being led by Council officers.
Update	<p>Delivery of the Biolink Plan action plan will commence in 2023-24, however since the adoption of the plan Council officers have been out actively engaging with key community stakeholders about how they can get involved and help Council improve our biodiversity.</p> <p>The Biolink Plan has been presented to 12 community groups, including 186 community members. Introducing the community to the innovative science and priorities of the plan over the next few years. The presentations have been well received by the community.</p> <p>A key action in the Biolink Plan is the delivery of the Koo Wee Rup trial biolink project. A stakeholder working group has been established to commence planning for the project. The working group includes 17 key stakeholders representing the Victorian Government, neighbouring councils, tertiary education, conservation organisations and community environmental leaders.</p> <p>Council officers have taken the opportunity to write to and present the Biolink Plan to members of parliament, receiving positive feedback especially from the Victorian Government members on the alignment of the strategy with individual goals and ambitions for the natural environment.</p>

Kinders program wrap up

Description	Council provides a limited number of free environment education incursions to four-year-old kindergarten programs in the shire, to encourage children to connect with their local environment and teach them simple actions to improve and protect our environment.
Funding	This program is fully funded by Council
Update	<p>This year Chooktopia was engaged to deliver an expanded kinders program covering topics related to biodiversity, water and climate change.</p> <p>Bookings opened in February and enthusiasm from the kindergartens was higher than anticipated with spots booked out quickly.</p> <p>In total, 34 sessions were delivered across 23 kinders (see Table 1), reaching 838 children. Uptake was across the shire, with educators travelling to all wards, including Lang Lang, Bunyip, Avonsleigh, Beaconsfield and everything in between.</p> <p>Topics covered included minibeasts, water bugs, climate change, water conservation, and habitats and ecosystems. The most popular topic was terrestrial minibeasts, followed by habitats and ecosystems. Feedback from teachers was positive, praising educators' interaction with the children and the variety of information covered.</p>

Table 1. Kindergartens and early learning centres who booked environment education sessions

School/kinder	Sessions	School/kinder	Sessions
Arena Child and Family Centre	2	Beaconsfield Kindergarten – Wood St	1
Beaconsfield Kindergarten – O'Neil Road	1	Birches Early Learning Bunyip	1
Bunyip Kindergarten	2	Cockatoo Community Childcare	1
Cockatoo Kindergarten	1	Community kids Pakenham EEC	1
Creative Garden Pakenham	1	Emerald pre-school	1
FIRST Early Learning & Kindergarten	1	Garfield Kindergarten	1
Great Beginnings Pakenham	1	Greenwood Officer	3
Henry Family Children's Centre	3	Homegarth Community Kindergarten	1
Koo Wee Rup pre-school	2	Lang Lang pre-school	2
Little Gems Early Learning	3	Little Saints ELC Pakenham	1
Little Stars Early Learning and Kinder	1	Maranatha ELC – Cardinia	1
Westernport childcare centre and kinder	1	Total sessions delivered	34

Climate change

Council Plan initiative

- Implement initiatives in the *Aspirational Energy Transition Plan*

This section also includes projects that are run by South-East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA), of which Cardinia Shire is a partner.

Bunyip Hall and Koo Wee Rup Community Centre solar system installations

Description	The installation of a 10kW solar energy systems on the Bunyip Hall and Koo Wee Rup community centres.
Funding	These projects were fully funded by Council
Update	<p>The installation of 10kW solar energy systems has been completed on both buildings. It is estimated the systems will reduce the energy costs for the buildings by up to \$2,000 per annum each.</p> <p>At Bunyip Hall, the solar panels were installed on the roof of the hall that faces away from the street for heritage and energy generation reasons. The safety handrail for the solar system was set back from the roof's western edge to further reduce visibility from the street.</p>

Pakenham Depot solar system installation

Description	The installation of a 40kW solar energy system at the Pakenham Depot
Funding	This project was fully funded by Council
Update	The installation of 40kW solar energy system is progressing at the Pakenham depot. The solar panels will be installed on the truck shed, with the energy generated supplying the main administration building through an underground cable. The truck shed roof has been strengthened to prepare it for the weight of the solar panels, and a contractor has been engaged for the installation.

Pakenham seniors' housing hot water heat pump installations

Description	The installation of a 5 energy efficient Sanden Heat Pumps at Council owned seniors' housing properties in Pakenham.
Funding	This project was fully funded by Council
Update	<p>Five energy efficient heat pumps have been installed to replace existing hot water systems at Council owned senior's housing properties in Flower Street Pakenham.</p> <p>The new heat pumps will provide hot water with much lower energy use, reducing energy costs for tenants.</p>

Fleet carbon offsets

Description	Council has again partnered with GreenFleet to offset 611 tonnes of emissions associated with Council's fleet.
Funding	This initiative is fully funded by Council
Update	<p>Purchasing accredited carbon offsets to offset fleet emissions is one of the steps Council is taking towards our zero net carbon emissions target by 2024.</p> <p>This initiative supports GreenFleet in its work to restore biodiverse native forests and vegetation around Australia, providing crucial habitat for endangered wildlife and helping to reduce the impacts of climate change</p>

Heritage

Council Plan initiative

- Actively protect key heritage sites within the shire

Emerald Museum: collections and community resilience project

Description	<p>The Collections and Community Resilience Project (CCRP) is a Victorian state-wide initiative that provides regional communities with the opportunity to digitally preserve their collections and receive onsite training in collections care, preventative conservation and risk mitigation in the face of natural disaster events.</p> <p>Emerald Museum was one of 9 institutions chosen across the state (from 33 applications).</p>
Funding	This project is fully funded by Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria (AMaGA Victoria) in partnership with the Victorian Government.
Update	<p>This program enabled 100 objects from the Emerald Museum's collection to be digitised for preservation purposes. Images were uploaded to the museum's publicly accessible online collection management system to help expand the museum's reach to researchers, schools, and the wider population.</p> <p>The project also benefits and empowers the Emerald Museum volunteers in their management of the museum's collection through professional training in line with National Standards for Museums and Galleries, as well as ongoing access to resources and networks beyond the life of the project.</p>

Emerald Museum at Hills Hub groups and club expo

Description	The Emerald Museum held a stall at the Community Groups/Clubs Expo at the Hills Hub to showcase the museum and attract new volunteers.
Funding	The museum volunteers attended the expo.
Update	The Emerald Museum received a positive response at the expo, with numerous visitors to the stall and around \$60 worth of books sold. The museum also gained a new volunteer from the event.

Australian Heritage Festival at Emerald Museum

Description	As part of the National Trust of Australia's annual Australian Heritage Festival, the Emerald Museum hosted a series of in-person and online activities aligning with the 2023 festival theme of ' <i>Shared Stories</i> '.
Funding	The event was jointly funded by Council and the Emerald Museum Community Asset Committee
Update	<p>Activities included a Teddy Bears' Picnic, guided walking tour of the Nobelius Heritage Park, and a beginner-friendly family history workshop in collaboration with Myli – My Community Library. These offerings attracted people from all ages, including many Nobelius descendants and first-time visitors to the Emerald Museum.</p> <p>Despite the cold and dreary weather, participation was strong:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 attendees at the Teddy Bears' Picnic, • 31 people on the Nobelius Heritage Park Guided Walking Tour, • approximately 80 visitors to the Emerald Museum throughout the course of the day, • 22 attendees in the Researching Your Family History online workshop with Myli.

Water

Council Plan initiative

- Implement initiatives in the Integrated Water Management Plan

Family water bugs workshop at Deep Creek Reserve

Description	Aquatic life and wetland health themed school holiday activity for families
Funding	This event was fully funded by Council
Update	<p>During the Autumn school holidays, families were invited to come down to Deep Creek Reserve to get to know their local waterways and the critters that live there. The session was fully booked.</p> <p>Attendees to the workshop explored samples from the wetlands to identify resident aquatic life and collected materials to craft their own water bugs.</p> <p>The twenty attendees engaged enthusiastically with the session and had lots of follow up questions about local waterways.</p>

Beaconsfield community complex rainwater harvesting

Description	The installation of a rainwater harvesting system at Beaconsfield Community Complex
Funding	This project is fully funded by Council
Update	A contractor has been engaged and works are taking place to install a rainwater harvesting system at the Beaconsfield Community Complex. The system will provide rainwater to flush the main toilets in the facility and supply garden taps.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) assets update

Description	<p>Council has the responsibility of creating new and managing existing water sensitive urban design (WSUD) assets to meet its obligation in stormwater pollutants migration control, habitat protection, flood mitigation, waterway protection and Integrated Water Management (IWM).</p> <p>Council currently manages WSUD assets worth up to \$18m. These assets require regular monitoring and maintenance to ensure they are functioning as designed. A recent comprehensive WSUD asset condition assessment found 45 WSUD assets require maintenance works in the next five years.</p> <p>Based on the available WSUD annual capital budget, the maintenance/rectification work needs to be carried out based on prioritisation of each asset and, the entire program rolled out over the next five years according to each asset's priority. The prioritisation process has been completed to ensure all assets can meet their designed service.</p> <p>Following the prioritisation process, 8 assets will have the required works undertaken in 2023-24</p>
Funding	The program is fully funded by Council
Update	<p>Contractors have been appointed to undertake works for all 8 assets. Site inspections with the contractors have been conducted ensuring their understanding of the scope of work on a site-specific basis.</p> <p>Due to the nature of WSUD asset maintenance/rectification, civil works are preferred to be delivered during summer when wet weather is comparably less. However, some works will commence in July to accommodate the required flora and fauna assessment requirements before the commencement of the civil work.</p>

Waste and resource recovery

Council Plan initiatives

- Implement the action plan for the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

Story time with truck driver

Description	<p>In January 2023 the waste team partnered with Pakenham library and Cleanaway to host our first 'story time with a truck driver' event. The event was very popular, booking out within a couple of days and receiving fantastic feedback from the 50 parents and children who attended.</p> <p>The positive feedback from attendees and staff involved encouraged the library, Council and Cleanaway to run the event again.</p>
Funding	These events are fully funded by Council's garbage charge.
Update	<p>Our second story time event was held on Wednesday 28 June, to align with winter school holidays and to recognise global garbage person day.</p> <p>Cleanaway driver Ross was happy to attend again, reading several books about the importance of reducing waste, recycling properly and the impact of waste on the environment. After the story time session children were given the opportunity to sit in the waste truck, have their photo taken and speak with the driver.</p> <p>Attendees were highly engaged throughout the event and received small gift bags with cardboard folding trucks, waste guides and sorting stickers to help educate others in their household. These community events help to engage children and teach positive waste messaging and good sorting behaviour from a young age, which has been shown to positively influence parents and siblings.</p>

Good sort program update

Description	<p>Council bin inspection program recommenced in May under a new name: Good Sort Program. The program was paused in November 2022, following the liquidation of our previous contractor.</p> <p>The process remains the same: a contracted inspector (bin educator) will audit residential kerbside recycling and food and garden waste bins and provide direct feedback to residents on their contents. In the past, the program's feedback has been given in the form of bin stickers however, under the new-look program, collateral has changed to fully recyclable bin tags.</p>
Funding	The project is fully funded by Council's garbage charge
Update	<p>Between May and June, bin inspections were conducted in Pakenham, Gembrook, Emerald, Upper Beaconsfield, Lang Lang and Caldermeade areas, inspecting 719 properties for correct sorting of both recycling and food and garden waste.</p> <p>Direct feedback was provided to each bin inspected in the form of tags, 514 green 'good sort' tags issued for clean materials, 50 orange 'oh no' tags those with some contamination and 5 red rejection tags issued for those with over 40% contamination.</p> <p>A comprehensive communications plan was developed for the program to inform residents about the audits, which utilises multiple communication channels including a targeted postal drop the week before the scheduled inspection.</p>

Waste incursion update

Description	<p>Council provides a limited number of free waste education programs to kindergartens and schools within the shire. Council successfully sought a new incursion provider, Chooktopia, late last year to facilitate these tailored sessions.</p> <p>The 4-year-old kindergarten sessions are designed around the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development (VEYLD) Framework with a focus on science and geography, with elements of wellbeing and civic/social responsibility. Kinder waste education topics include but are not limited to, worm farming, composting, recycling right, and circular economy.</p> <p>All school programs are designed around Victorian Curriculum F-10 Framework with a focus on science and humanities. School waste education topics include, but are not limited to, worm farming, food audit and starting a compost, recycling right, waste audits, litter, and embedding sustainability in school.</p>
Funding	The project is fully funded by Council garbage charges
Update	<p>Between February and June 2023, Chooktopia have facilitated 40 sessions (27 kinder session and 13 school sessions), reaching a total of 945 students (645 kinder students and 300 school students).</p> <p>The most popular topics have been 'recycle right' and 'worm farming'. Sessions were spread over 23 schools and kinders.</p> <p>Council has received very positive feedback from these sessions and will continue with Chooktopia in the 2023-24 financial year. A further 26 sessions are already booked for term 3. See Table 4 for a list of schools/kinders and the number of sessions delivered.</p>

Table 2. Schools, kindergartens and early learning centres who booked waste incursions

School/kinder	Sessions	School/kinder	Sessions
Arena Child and Family Centre	1	Avonsleigh pre-school	1
Bayles Regional Primary School	1	Beaconsfield Kindergarten	1
Birches Early Learning Bunyip	1	Bunyip Kindergarten	2
Cardinia Primary	9	Cockatoo Community Childcare	1
Cockatoo Kindergarten	1	Columba Catholic Primary School	3
FIRST Early Learning & Kindergarten	1	Garfield Kindergarten	1
Greenwood Officer	1	Henry Family Children's Centre	3
Homegarth Community Kindergarten	1	Koo Wee Rup pre-school	2
Little Gems Early Learning	2	Little saints ELC Pakenham	1
Little Starts Early Learning & kinder	1	Maranatha ELC - Cardinia	1
Pakenham Kindergarten	2	St Clares ELC	1
Westernport childcare centre & kinder	2	Total sessions delivered	40

Green waste drop-off results (March and May)

Description	<p>Council run several different drop-off events throughout the year to help encourage residents to reduce the waste sent to landfill. Green waste drop-offs are a regular service held on selected dates throughout the year as part of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy action; <i>implementing alternatives to burning off and reducing bushfire risk in the shire</i></p> <p>Six green waste drop-off events have been organised for 2023 which are evenly spread throughout the year.</p>
Funding	These events are fully funded by Council's garbage charge.
Update	<p>Two recent green waste drop-off events were held in March and May 2023 at Future Recycling Transfer Station, Pakenham and Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre, Lysterfield respectively.</p> <p>To improve the participation, digital Variable Message Signs (VMS) were installed at specific locations to promote the event, this was in addition to all regular communication channels. A significant increase in the participation was seen at the Pakenham event, becoming the most successful green waste event to date.</p> <p>March 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • held at Future Recycling Transfer Station, Pakenham • Friday 24 to Monday 27 March • 822 vehicles • diverted 146 tonnes of green waste material for mulching and composting • Cost: \$25,597 • this event was recorded as one of the busiest green waste drop-off events organised by Council. <p>May 2023 event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held at Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre, Lysterfield • Friday 19 to Monday 22 May • 198 individual vehicles • Cost: \$9,034 • diverted 48.60 tonnes of green waste material for mulching and composting. <p>The next green waste drop-off event will be organised at Future Recycling Transfer Station from 21 to 22 July 2023.</p>

Detox your home and drumMuster results (April)

Description	<p>Detox Your Home is a pop-up event hosted by Cardinia annually, the event is funded by Sustainability Victoria and Cleanaway provide on-site collection and disposal management, while Council helps promote the event, provide the location and staff.</p> <p>Detox Your Home provides a safe, free and easy way to dispose of unwanted common, toxic household chemicals, helping reduce the impact chemicals can have on health and the environment. The collected chemicals are safely sorted and transported to a specialist waste treatment facility, where many are recycled or used for other purposes such as energy recovery.</p> <p>DrumMuster runs alongside Detox Your Home and provides commercial and residential community members with disposal opportunities for eligible, clean agvet chemical containers. Council trained staff manage the event and organise for the drums to be collected and recycled afterwards.</p>
Funding	<p>This event is jointly funded by Council's garbage charge, Sustainability Victoria and drumMUSTER.</p>
Update	<p>Cardinia's annual Detox your Home and drumMUSTER event was held on Saturday 22 April 2023 at Councils Purton Road, Pakenham depot. This was the largest and most successful Detox event to date, with 207 people dropping in to dispose of household chemicals, cleaning products, cosmetics, fire extinguishers, aerosols and other toxic household items for free.</p> <p>More than 4.5 tonnes of chemicals were collected, and around 60% of these can be recycled. Flammable liquids made up the largest volume of chemicals dropped off with 1660kg brought in for recycling, followed by 550kgs of non-toxic chemicals and 503kgs of liquid pesticides.</p> <p>82 eligible drums were also dropped off for recycling as part of the drumMUSTER program.</p>

What is coming up?

- Home energy audit kits available to borrow through Myli (from August)
- Trees for weeds swap event (2 September)
- Green waste drop-off (September)
- Bioblitz (September)
- National Recycling week (November)
- Container deposit scheme (November)
- Cardboard drop-off event (December)

For more upcoming events, please subscribe to Council's environmental newsletter – Down to earth
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/downtoearth

Highlights for 2023-24

Strategy delivery

- **Implementation of the Aspirational Energy Transition Plan**
 - Purchase of fleet carbon offsets
 - Transition away from gas appliances for Council facilities
 - Continued investigation and delivery of rooftop solar energy installations on Council facilities
 - Household energy efficiency education sessions through Maternal Child Health
 - LED streetlighting upgrade
 - Continued involvement in project development in the South-East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)
- **Implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**
 - Participate in regional climate adaption and resilience projects through SECCCA
 - Support the expansion of the gardens for wildlife program into growth areas, focusing on urban properties
 - Support environmental groups and organisations working to establish and protect seagrass and mangrove communities and other threatened Ecological Vegetation Communities found in the council area
- **Implementation of Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**
 - Liaise with local aboriginal groups over the annual Council natural resource area works plans
 - Coordinate revegetation on public and private land to improve biodiversity values
 - Continue to support Eastern Region Pest Animal Network initiatives
- **Implementation of Weed Management Strategy**
 - Continue to lead the Peri Urban Weed Partnership Program
 - Continue to collaborate with partner agencies, community groups and landholders, to plan and implement weed programs.
 - Review the weed grant program to identify improvements to land management outcomes
- **Implementation of the Biolinks Plan**
 - Undertake monitoring of indicator species in priority natural resource areas
 - Collaborate with Melbourne Water to find synergies in areas where their priority works align with Biolink Plan priorities
 - Start engagement with Traditional Owners regarding 'cultural fire practise,' burning to establish a framework to facilitate ecological burning on private land.
- **Implementation of the Integrated Water Management Plan**
 - Continue to participate in the Westernport Integrated Water Management Forum
 - Liaise with internal stakeholders to investigate incorporating water re-use opportunities into new recreation facilities at the design phase.
 - Implement water efficiency saving measures in Council facilities

- **Implementation of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy**
 - Develop Public Place Guidelines document (to complement kerbside guidelines)
 - Missing waste charges revenue recovery review and action plan
 - Review and monitor the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
 - Develop process/policy for ongoing residential contamination
 - Dumped rubbish awareness campaign
 - Proposal to expand dumped rubbish surveillance cameras
 - Audit and educate waste sorting behaviour at Council owned/operated facilities such as kindergartens.
 - Draft Single-Use Plastic policy for Council, Council supported events and events on Council land
 - Campaign to increase FOGO awareness and number of opt-in services
 - E-waste/hot load education campaign (review e-waste disposal locations and collection agreement)
 - Conduct a tenement/population growth assessment
 - Complete public place infrastructure audit
 - Pro-active hard waste audits
 - Waste Wise festival
 - Progress advanced waste processing options
 - Prepare for tendering out recycling processing

Annual programs

- **Coordination of grants:**
 - Annual Weed control grants to reduce weeds on private and public land
 - Annual Heritage grants to conserve places protected under the heritage overlay
 - Biodiversity Incentive grants on private land
 - Distribute annual friends group maintenance contribution
 - Trust for Nature rate reimbursement scheme
- **Continued community collaboration and awareness programs:**
 - Annual trees for weeds swap day
 - Gardens for wildlife program
 - Kindergarten environment education program
 - School environment excursions with Ecolinc and Primesci at Deep Creek Reserve
 - Community plant giveaway from indigenous plant nursery
 - Indian myna trapping program (sale of traps)
 - Cat and dog management for wildlife conservation awareness program
 - Targeted energy use information sessions for vulnerable groups
 - Schools and kindergarten waste education program
 - Community support for managing green waste/fuel loads on private properties
 - Community waste education program