# Action plan

The Biodiversity Strategy is a five year strategy that will be implemented between the 2017-18 and 2021-22 financial years. A detailed and costed action plan has been developed and is set out in Table 5. The action plan identifies how each of the six biodiversity goals will be achieved over the five year period.

The costing used in the action plan are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Indicative cost | Classification |
| Staff or monetary resources included in existing Council operations | Existing resources |
| $0-$20,000 | Low cost |
| $20,001 – $100,000 | Medium cost |
| $100,001+ | High cost |

*Table 5 Biodiversity Action Plan for 2017-18 to 2021-22*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Action*** | ***Goal*** | | | | | | **Indicative cost** |
| **Building ecosystem resilience through long term, adaptive planning** | **Utilising best practice pest management to reduce threats to our unique biodiversity** | **Utilising urban ecology and natural area management to prevent the loss of species** | **Optimise the biodiversity protection opportunities that can be achieved through excellence in land use management** | **Assisting our community to value our unique biodiversity through education and engagement** | **Incorporating community recreational benefits without compromising our unique biodiversity** |
| ***Objective 1 - Build Council’s capacity to deliver effective biodiversity management*** | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 As part of an organisation wide review into Council GIS service needs, review biodiversity data mapping and monitoring needs including: - type of data needed - frequency of data collection needed - time and resources needed to collect data both initially and on an ongoing basis | **\*** | **\*** | **\*** | **\*** |  | **\*** | Internal resources |
| 1.2 Undertake a review of the resources required to implement the Biodiversity strategy, including:  - time and capacity to liaise with government agencies and industry to effectively collaborate on regional biodiversity management (with a particular focus on pest plant and animal management) - management and analysis of biodiversity data, monitoring control efforts and reporting  - capacity to advise Council on biodiversity related land management issues | \* | \* | \* | \* |  | \* | Internal resources |
| ***Objective 2 - Actively reduce the threat posed by pest plant and animals on biodiversity within Hobsons Bay*** | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Continue core pest plant control at Council managed conservation reserves as per site management plans. | \* | \* | \* |  |  |  | High cost |
| 2.2 Undertake a pest plant control review in collaboration with neighbouring land managers to effectively manage  - key conservation areas to be protected and the top weed threats - broader pest plant management needs - options for reducing weed threats | \* | \* | \* |  |  |  | Medium cost |
| 2.3 Review and update Council practices for machine hygiene to ensure that weed seeds are not spread by machinery. | \* | \* | \* |  |  |  | Internal resources |
| 2.4 Identify: - Council-wide pest animal control needs for rabbits, foxes, cats, Indian mynas and other relevant species  - undertake a rabbit control review at priority conservation reserves - options for improving collaboration with neighbouring land managers to effectively manage pest animals including rabbits - the suitability of pest animal control options for the urban context - advocacy needs to manage key species such as Indian mynas | \* | \* | \* |  |  |  | Medium cost |
| ***Objective 3 - Actively enhance the connectivity of conservation areas*** | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 Identify areas of priority for increasing connectivity and biolinks both within the municipality and across the region.  This may include:  - keeping offsets within the municipality where they would contribute to biodiversity (to be guided by the outcome of action 5.1)  This will include:  - identify where restoration works should be prioritised to increase connectivity - identify where connectivity is important to allow for the upstream migration of species retreating from sea level rise | \* |  | \* | \* | \* | \* | Medium cost |
| 3.2 Link biodiversity corridors with conservation reserves, creeks and open spaces across the municipality through revegetation and landscaping techniques. | \* |  | \* | \* | \* | \* | Medium cost |
| 3.3 As part of a broader project to identify and protect significant trees - map trees with significant conservation values such as those containing hollows for fauna habitat | \* |  | \* | \* | \* | \* | Medium cost |
| ***Objective 4 - Enhance land management practices for biodiversity protection*** | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 Where gaps exist in current mapping and modelling of vegetation, undertake further mapping to support decision making and potential planning controls such as Environmental Significance Overlays. | \* |  | \* | \* |  |  | Medium cost |
| 4.2 Review of ecological burn practices | \* |  | \* |  |  |  | Internal resources |
| 4.3 Review fire notices. This will include a review of mapping and identification of areas subject to fire notice that have significant habitat. | \* |  | \* | \* |  |  | Internal resources |
| 4.4 Discuss, in collaboration with key stakeholders including Birdlife Australia, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and citizen science groups, how to monitor ground nesting birds for improved management and protection from domestic animals | \* |  | \* |  | \* |  | Internal resources |
| ***Objective 5 - Enhance land use planning for biodiversity protection*** | | | | | | | |
| 5,1 Develop a procedure to guide when and under what condition Council: - will accept and manage offsets - determines if offsets are to be retained within the municipality or sought elsewhere. | \* |  | \* | \* |  |  | Internal resources |
| 5.2 Investigate Environmental Significance Overlays for the increased protection of sites with high value vegetation. | \* |  | \* | \* |  |  | High cost |
| ***Objective 6 - Education and engagement*** | | | | | | | |
| 6.1 Review the balance of using existing resources for community engagement activities and core conservation actions, including: - how events are promoted and communicated to the community - the demand for events - resources necessary to deliver these activities |  |  |  |  | \* | \* | Internal resources |
| 6.2 Review how the Enviro Centre and Council's biodiversity resources can be utilised to more effectively support volunteers and community members who are interested in biodiversity. |  |  |  |  | \* | \* | Internal resources |
| 6.3 Embed in Council's signage and way finding strategy an interpretive signage suite for conservation areas. |  |  |  |  | \* | \* | Internal resources |
| ***Objective 7 - People and biodiversity management*** | | | | | | | |
| 7.1 In line with Council’s draft Reconciliation Action Plan, Council will commence the process of increasing community recognition of reconciliation and Aboriginal culture by engaging with the Aboriginal community. |  |  |  |  | \* |  | Medium cost |
| 7.2 Identify key conservation sites at risk of dumping. Develop a plan to manage the risk to these sites. This should consider site profile raising, signage and awareness raining activities. | \* |  | \* |  | \* |  | Internal resources |
| 7.3 Identify and map conservation sites for high biodiversity protection and significant sites for medium biodiversity protection. Develop a plan to manage the impacts of dogs and other recreational uses in these areas. This may include clearer signs, buffers and boundaries between adjoining land uses. | \* |  | \* |  | \* | \* | Internal resources |
| 7.4 Work collaboratively with other agencies to clarify biodiversity values and responsibilities. Incorporate the protection of conservation areas into all commercial agreements such as kite surfing agreements. | \* |  | \* |  |  | \* | Internal resources |
| 7.5 Following the mapping and identification of significant trees, review approval and enforcement processes for the removal of trees and strengthen as appropriate. | \* | \* | \* | \* |  |  | Internal resources |