

Priorities of the Plan



Chapter 1: Introduction



Chapter 2: Facing the challenge



Chapter 3: A fresh vision for Victoria's biodiversity in a time of climate change

1. Deliver cost-effective results utilising decision support tools in biodiversity planning processes to help achieve and measure against the targets.
2. Increase the collection of targeted data for evidence-based decision making and make all data more accessible.



Chapter 4: A healthy environment for healthy Victorians

3. Raise the awareness of all Victorians about the importance of the state's natural environment.
4. Increase opportunities for all Victorians to have daily connections with nature.
5. Increase opportunities for all Victorians to act to protect biodiversity.



Chapter 5: Linking our society and economy to the environment

6. Embed consideration of natural capital into decision making across the whole of government, and support industries to do the same.
7. Help to create more liveable and climate-adapted communities.
8. Better care for and showcase Victoria's environmental assets as world-class natural and cultural tourism attractions.



Chapter 6: Investing together to protect our environment

9. Establish sustained funding for biodiversity.
10. Leverage non-government investment in biodiversity.
11. Increase incentives and explore market opportunities for private landholders to conserve biodiversity.



Chapter 7: Biodiversity response planning

12. Adopt a collaborative biodiversity response planning approach to drive accountability and measurable improvement.
13. Support and enable community groups, Traditional Owners, non-government organisations and sections of government to participate in biodiversity response planning.



Chapter 8: Working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians

14. Engage with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to include Aboriginal values and traditional ecological knowledge in biodiversity planning and management.
15. Support Aboriginal access to biodiversity for economic development.
16. Build capacity to increase Aboriginal participation in biodiversity management.



Chapter 9: Better protection and management of our biodiversity

17. Deliver excellence in management of all land and waters.
18. Maintain and enhance a world-class system of protected areas.



Chapter 10: Government leadership in delivering the Plan

19. Adopt a whole-of-government approach to implementing the Plan.
20. Establish a transparent evaluation process to report on progress towards delivering the Plan.

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037



Summary



There is nothing more important to our existence than a healthy natural environment. Yet despite efforts in recent decades, many native plant and animal species remain under threat as Victoria's biodiversity continues to decline. This Plan presents a new direction for Victoria – to stop the decline of our biodiversity and ensure that our natural environment is healthy, valued and actively cared for.

What is the Biodiversity Plan?

Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037 is the Victorian Government's ambitious plan to stop the decline of our biodiversity and achieve overall biodiversity improvement over the next 20 years.

It makes the case for increased effort, and defines a modern approach to managing our biodiversity. It is underpinned by ground-breaking science that for the first time allows us to get upstream of the problem of Victoria's biodiversity decline.

The Victorian Government is leading this process, but ultimately we need the people of Victoria to commit to helping us protect the future health and conservation of our biodiversity.

The Plan establishes a long-term vision and goals. Specific targets have been developed to deliver on these goals. Priorities have been identified throughout the Plan – summarised on the back of this brochure.

How will the targets be achieved?

- The Victorian Government will work with communities to explore the best ways to increase the number of Victorians connecting with nature and acting to protect or enhance biodiversity.
- Conservation actions will be more strategic, deliver better value for money and be underpinned by the best available science. This will ensure our efforts deliver the most benefit for the most species.
- A collaborative *Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework* will be developed to track the progress of achieving the Plan's goals and targets.

How will the Plan be delivered?

- A four-year implementation plan will support the delivery of the Plan – setting out key actions to be led by Government, and focused on the priorities of the Plan.
- Through the Biodiversity Response Planning process we will work with all relevant partners and stakeholders across Victoria to identify and implement on-ground actions that will best contribute to the Plan's targets.

For more information on the Biodiversity Plan visit: environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversityplan

VISION: VICTORIA'S BIODIVERSITY IS HEALTHY, VALUED AND ACTIVELY CARED FOR

GOAL: Victorians value nature

GOAL: Victoria's natural environment is healthy

Targets

By 2037:

- All Victorians connecting with nature.
- Five million Victorians acting to protect the natural environment.
- All Victorian Government organisations that manage environmental assets contribute to environmental-economic accounting.

Targets

A net improvement in the outlook across all species by 2037, so that:

- No vulnerable or near-threatened species will have become endangered.
- All critically endangered and endangered species will have at least one option available for being conserved *ex situ* or re-established in the wild (where feasible under climate change) should they need it.
- We achieve a net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is all components of the living world: the number and variety of native plants, animals and other living things across our land, rivers, coast and ocean.

It includes the variety of their genetic information, their habitats and their relationship to the ecosystems within which they live.

What is the current condition of Victoria's biodiversity?

- There are more than 5,000 plants and 1,200 vertebrate animals native to Victoria. Over a third of these species are of conservation concern (classified as rare, threatened or near-threatened).
- There is a continued decline in the quality and extent of habitat of native species.
- Threats to biodiversity include habitat loss, weeds, pest animals and changed fire and water regimes – all of which will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.
- Biodiversity has been historically under-valued and is not accounted for in the economy, yet it provides enormous benefits to society.

Why is healthy biodiversity important?

- It is fundamental to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of current and future generations.
- It reduces the impacts of climate change.
- It is important to Victorians' identity.
- It is vital to Victoria's tourism – our parks alone bring in \$1.4 billion each year.
- It is fundamental to the cultural practices of Aboriginal Victorians.
- It has intrinsic value and a right to exist, regardless of human considerations.

