



Macedon Ranges Biodiversity Strategy

The biodiversity found in the Macedon Ranges is unique and highly significant. A new strategy will guide Council and the community to work towards a healthier environment and better protection for our native plants and animals.

The Biodiversity Strategy for the Macedon Ranges will aim to:

- protect and enhance the health, connectivity and extent of ecosystems across the shire, and avoid any further loss of species and communities
- continuously improve Council's and the community's understanding of the shire's unique biodiversity
- develop landscape scale priorities for action utilising best practice and evidence-based conservation management techniques to protect biodiversity and manage threats
- ensure community and government are working collaboratively towards a shared vision for biodiversity conservation.



Strategy development process

Stage 1: Initial consultations and data collection

November – December 2017

- Desktop review of background information
- Informal consultations with community and agency staff
- Promote flora and fauna data gathering

Stage 2: Community consultations and plan development

January – June 2018

- Community mapping survey
- Agency, Landcare and Friends group consultation
- Mapping analysis and monitoring program development
- Biodiversity and landscape connectivity forum

Stage 3: Review of draft plan

July – September 2018

- Finalise draft strategy
- Draft open for public comment

Stage 4: Plan finalisation

September – December 2018

- Collate feedback
- Complete final strategy and seek adoption from Council

For more information, contact Krista on 5421 9503 or email kpatterson-majoor@mrsc.vic.gov.au



Have your say

Have your say by letting us know where there are:

- biodiverse sites that you think require increased protection or better management?
- sites that will connect or buffer existing vegetation and habitat?

This information will assist with the identification of policy and planning initiatives, and priorities for community engagement—on ground action and monitoring change.

Community mapping survey

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay from Monday 5 February to access our community mapping survey where you can pinpoint important natural features on an interactive map.

Community drop-in sessions

You can also provide input at three community drop-in sessions:

- **Monday 12 February**, 4pm–6pm at Gisborne Community Centre, 8 Hamilton Street
- **Thursday 15 February**, 5pm–7pm, Room 3 at Kyneton Mechanics Institute, 81 Mollison Street
- **Wednesday 21 February**, 6pm–8pm, at Lancefield Neighbourhood House, 78 High Street

Email or write to us

We encourage you to provide as much information as possible to help us identify the biodiversity values of the shire. If you have any photos, maps or other information you would like to share, email

kpatterson-majoor@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Closing date

The closing date for submissions and feedback is Monday 12 March 2018.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity (biological diversity) refers to the variety of life on earth. It is the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems in which they live and interact.

Not only does biodiversity have its own value, it is vital for the health and wellbeing of our society and economy.

What is special about the Macedon Ranges?

In the Macedon Ranges, the varying topography, range of altitudes and localised climatic patterns result in rich and unique biodiversity values in the form of many ecosystems, hosting a wide range of native plants and animals.

We are very fortunate to have extensive native vegetation and rich biodiversity present on public and private land right across the shire.