



FOCUS AREA 5

Conservation of biodiversity

Council is committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in Moira Shire.





Policy position

Moira Shire acknowledges:

- The need to work with our partners to prioritise biodiversity actions;
- Our few remaining trees are vitally important in the landscape and must be protected, they provide disproportionate value to wildlife considering their limited number;
- Biodiversity is vital to ensuring long-term social wellbeing and economic sustainability; and
- A legitimate and urgent need for greater action to mitigate degradation of biodiversity.

Moira Shire Council will:

- Implement Council's legislative and policy responsibilities to protect the health of ecological systems;
- Account for and offset all of Council's native vegetation losses;
- Ensure that Council's actions and land management practices incorporate appropriate biodiversity conservation measures and are an example to others;
- Seek and support investment in biodiversity priority areas in Moira Shire; and
- Encourage and support private and public land stewardship and management practices that benefit biodiversity.

Policy rationale

Council recognises:

- Increasing the extent, diversity and quality of native vegetation and habitat will address adverse consequences (e.g. declining species diversity and loss of soil productivity);
- Changing land use can exacerbate risks or create opportunities e.g. intensive agriculture, bio-diverse carbon sequestration; and
- Policy and regulatory change can exacerbate risks and/or create opportunities (e.g. native vegetation regulation, planned burning, environmental water delivery and investment priorities).

Long-term target

To protect and enhance biodiversity in Moira Shire to achieve net gain.

Performance Indicators (by 2026)

The following performance indicators will be used to determine the successful implementation of the strategy:

1. Achieved a 'net gain' in native vegetation for Council activities*.
2. Reviewed and implemented the roadside conservation management plan.
3. Increased the extent, diversity and quality of native vegetation through annual rehabilitation project.
4. Improved community awareness and connection with nature.

** Where actions to compensate unavoidable losses contribute to longer term gains in quality and quantity.*

Actions

The following actions will support the implementation of the strategy:

- Support and plant indigenous species in urban open spaces and on public reserves (e.g. road reserves).
- Undertake grant audit permits for native vegetation removal.
- Enforce the native vegetation regulations and advocate for improvements.
- Enforce compliance within the native vegetation regulations.
- Improve community awareness of the native vegetation regulations.
- Promote community education on native plants, animals, and communities.
- Ensure Council meets its legal obligations for weed and pest animal control.
- Advocate for improvements to the native vegetation regulations.
- Improve the management of Council's nature reserves and assets (e.g. controlled burns).
- Manage and establish new offset sites for council activities that result in a loss of biodiversity.
- Support the Broken-Boosey Conservation Management Network Advisory Group and Goulburn Murray Landcare Network.
- Participate as an active member of the Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, Municipal Catchment Coordinator Reference Group; and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Wetland Management Group.
- Support rural properties to plant native vegetation (e.g. rural tree program) and encourage regeneration (e.g. on your guard program).
- Implement the Roadside Weed and Pest Animal Control Management Plan 2020-2027.
- Protect high conservation value vegetation regardless of tenure including paddock trees and reserves.
- Investigate cat control programs.
- Increase the area under conservation covenants and biodiversity management agreements.

Photo by Chris Tzaros

