

Appendix 3

Biodiversity Strategy 2025-2035

Environmental Friends of Groups, Biodiversity Legislation,
Environmental Planning Scheme Overlays and Sites of
Significance (NEROC Report)



Environmental Friends Groups in Banyule

Banyule is fortunate to have a community, passionate about and dedicated to the protection and enhancement of our natural environment. Our community has many active volunteers who have been part of and formed Environmental Friends Groups who volunteer their time to work in and advocate for the natural environment.

Each of the Environmental Friends Groups participating throughout Banyule are an integral part of Councils overall mission to increase local biodiversity. This strategy recognises the importance of our Environmental Friends Groups and outlines ways in which we plan to partner with and support them into the future.

Name of Friends Group	Area Active
Friends of Salt Creek and Associated Parklands	Salt Creek Wildlife Corridor and Rosanna Parklands
Friends of Banyule	Viewbank and Banyule generally
Warringal Conservation Society	Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands
Friends of Eaglemont Village	Eaglemont Village.
Concerned Residents of Macleod	Macleod area, Macleod ESO4 River Red Gum Overlay area.
Friends of Yarra Valley Parklands	Yarra River between Ivanhoe and Warrandyte.
Friends of Darebin Creek	Darebin Creek Wildlife Corridor.
Friends of Plenty River	Plenty River Wildlife Corridor
Friends of Darebin Parklands	Darebin Parklands and Darebin Wildlife Corridor
Friends of Wilsons Reserve	Wilsons Reserve and surrounding Yarra River Area
Friends of Montmorency Bushlands	Montmorency Conservation Reserves
Friends of Eltham Copper Butterfly	Eltham, Greensborough, and Montmorency
Friends of Andrew Yandell Habitat Reserve	Andrew Yandell Reserve, Greensborough
Friends of Anthony Beale Reserve	Anthony Beale Reserve, Greensborough
Friends of St Helena Bush Reserve	St Helena Bush Reserve, Eltham North

Our Environmental Friends of Groups partner with Councils Bushland Management team to undertake a variety of environmental tasks. The groups actively participate in revegetating significant indigenous flora communities, undertake wildlife surveys and maintain conservation areas. These groups further help Council in advocating and educating the wider community of the importance of our natural environment.

If you would like to become involved or join one of the local Environmental Community Groups, please visit [Join a friends of group | Banyule Council](#) to find one near you.

Biodiversity Legislation.

There are a number of legislative, policy and strategic documents that all support biodiversity at the International, Federal, State and Regional level. These documents are critical in the protection and guidance for organisations to follow to allow for better natural environmental outcomes.

International	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment (CAMBA).
	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment (JAMBA).
	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment (ROKAMBA).
Federal	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).
	Australia's Strategy for Nature (2019-2030).
	Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2030.
State	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act).
	Catchment and Land Management Act 1994 (CaLP Act);
	Wildlife Act 1989.
	Planning and Environment Act 1987.
	Water Act 1989
	Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (2017) – with associated Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework (MERF)
Regional	Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Authority's Regional Catchment Strategy (2021-2027)
	Healthy Waterway Strategy (Yarra Catchment) (2018-2028)
	Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo, Yarra Strategic Plan (2022-2032)
	Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)
	Eastern Region Pest Animal Strategy (2020 – 2030)

Banyule's Planning Scheme – Biodiversity Relative Overlays

A key mechanism Council has to protect local biodiversity is the comprehensive regulatory framework which exists to control biodiversity loss on public and private land through vegetation controls under the Banyule Planning Scheme. These mechanisms aren't a silver bullet to protect all vegetation in a suburban Council with rapid development but do afford a high level of consideration.

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAYS

ESO1 – Yarra River, Plenty River, and Darebin Creek

Encompasses stretches along the Yarra and Plenty Rivers and the Darebin Creek. These are predominately streamside areas supporting open space and remnant indigenous vegetation and wetlands. They support vulnerable and rare species such as Swift Parrot, Powerful Owl, and Latham's Snipe.

ESO2 – Macleod Red Gum Area

Significant stands of River Redgums and associated indigenous vegetation that provide important habitat for native fauna and wildlife corridor links to Gresswell Forest, Salt Creek (which ends up connecting to the Yarra River)

ESO3 – Sites of Botanical, Zoological and Habitat Significance

Includes those sites of significance which are removed from the major waterways (not covered by ESO1). All are significant for the presence of indigenous vegetation and habitat for significant fauna.

Yandell Reserve and the adjoining Greenhills area is particularly significant for the presence of the critically endangered Eltham Copper Butterfly. St Helena Reserve is particularly important for the presence of the rare Emerald-lip Greenhood. The north-east area of Streeton Views Estate contains stands of the endangered *Eucalyptus studlyensis*.

ESO4 – Significant trees and areas of vegetation

A variety of native and exotic tree and other vegetation which are of landscape, habitat, horticultural or genetic value, are rare or localised distribution, are outstanding examples of their species or are of cultural or historical significance.

ESO5 – Streeton Views estate

Areas of Eucalyptus Grassy Woodland Community which is dominated in parts by *Eucalyptus studlyensis* and *Eucalyptus melliodora*, with scattered individuals of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus ovata* and less common, but still present *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*. The area further provides habitat for wildlife and an important connection link to Simpson Army Barracks and Gresswell Forest.

VEGETATION PROTECTION OVERLAY

VPO1 – Plenty River East

This area contains developed and developing urban areas which have significant natural, habitat and environmental qualities

VPO2 – Loyola Seminary Precinct

A large number of trees and shrubs within the Loyola Seminary Precinct from part of the buildings original garden surrounds and are an integral part of its significance.

VPO3 – Eaglemont, Ivanhoe East, and Ivanhoe Area

VPO4 – Elliston Estate

VPO5 – Substantial Tree Protection Area

SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY

SLO1 – Yarra (Birrarung) River Corridor Environs

Sites of Significance

In 1997 Banyule was part of a wider North East Regional Organisation of Councils (NEROC) to produce an historical document on the *Sites of Faunal and Habitat Significance in North East Melbourne*, prepared by Cam Beardsell. The report identifies and describes 104 sites of faunal and habitat significance in Melbourne's North East, to which Banyule's borders host or are a major contributing part of 11 of these, as displayed in table xxx below.

These sites have been embedded into and shaped much of Banyule's current Environmental Planning Scheme Overlays and remain sites of critical importance to this day.

Site	Name	Physiographical Region	Habitat Significance	Faunal Significance
23	Dougharty Road to Plenty Road (Darebin Creek north – Northern Grasslands in Banyule)	Plenty Lowland Volcanic Plains	Medium	Regional
24	Darebin Parklands (Darebin Creek South)		Medium	Regional
25	Greswell Forest – Strathallan Link. Significant site with small sections in Banyule but high significance for development and work around this area	Yarra Lowland Alluvial Plains (A)	High	Regional
27	Plenty River Flats	Yarra Lowland Alluvial Plains (B)	Medium	Regional
28	Simpson Barracks		Medium	Regional
31	Bailey Billabong – Willsmere Lagoon – Hays Paddock (Yarra River, Wilsons Reserve area in Banyule)	Yarra Lowland Alluvial Plains (D)	Medium	Regional
33	Banyule Flats – Warringal Swamplands		High	State
34	Bonds Road – Birrarung Park – Westerfolds Park (Yarra River Corridor, Bonds Road area in Banyule)	Yarra Lowland Alluvial Plains (E)	High	Regional
44	Greenhills (Andrew Yandell Habitat Reserve, Keswick Glen Reserve, Browns Reserve)	Plenty Lowland Hills (B)	Medium	State
45	Yallambie to Greensborough (Plenty River)		Medium	Regional
48	St Helena – (St Helena Bush Reserve, Settlers Park Corridor, Liddesdale Bushland Reserve, Dalvida Conservation Reserve)	Plenty Lowland Hills (C)	High	Regional