

Biodiversity

Classification:	Council Policy
First Issued / Approved:	20 May 2003, C6133
Last Reviewed:	19 June 2007, F1565 23 April 2013, C9148 24 June 2014, C9774 28 June 2016, C10710 9 February 2021, C090221/12744
Next Review:	February 2025
ECM Tracking No.:	986715
Responsible Officer:	General Manager Urban & Community
Relevant Legislation:	Environment Protection Act, 1993 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2005 Landscape South Australia Act 2019 Local Government Act, 1999 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 Native Vegetation Act, 1991
Related Policies:	Bushfire Hazard Management Policy Climate Change Policy Open Space Policy Urban Tree Management Policy Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy Watercourse Management Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The City of Burnside is rich in local biodiversity, with a wide variety of indigenous flora and fauna species occurring in remnant native vegetation and re-established sites along the hills face, creeklines, and in urban parks. There are also streetscapes and private gardens of high biodiversity value.
- 1.2. Since European colonisation in 1836, the area has lost significant local biodiversity, in both area and numbers of species.
- 1.3. Council manages and promotes biodiversity, including the restoration and maintenance of natural environments, fire risk reduction, removal of invasive species, support for canopy cover and habitat on public and private land, and the education and engagement of the community.
- 1.4. Council restores and maintains vegetation that has existed within the Council area for hundreds or thousands of years. The local plants provide habitat for local native wildlife. Together, these indigenous plants and animals are distinctive and underpin the character of the City of Burnside.
- 1.5. Council recognises the intrinsic value of biodiversity and the importance of biodiversity in sustaining the community's sense of place. Biodiversity provides

and supports cultural and aesthetic experiences, place attachment, recreation and tourism, education and cognitive development, as well as inspiration for culture, art and design. There are well-documented human health benefits derived from experiencing biodiversity.

- 1.6. This policy supports the preservation, restoration and promotion of indigenous biodiversity and the natural environment, including healthy habitats for wildlife populations.

2. Strategic Plan Desired Outcomes

THEME: COMMUNITY

Priority 1.2: Resilience, wellbeing and recreation

Priority 1.3: A sense of community

Priority 1.4: Facilities, services and programs that meet our community's needs

THEME: ENVIRONMENT

Priority 2.1: Adapt and mitigate for Climate Change

Priority 2.2: Canopy cover, greening and open space

Priority 2.4: Healthy habitats and biodiversity

THEME: PLACE

Priority 3.4: Character and heritage protected, cherished and celebrated

3. Our Approach

Council will seek to:

- 3.1. Restore, improve and maintain local native vegetation and habitat, ensuring indigenous biodiversity is protected;
- 3.2. Undertake responsible bushfire management strategies to protect and enhance the natural environment and property;
- 3.3. Ensure public spaces meet the current and future needs of our community and provide opportunities to experience and learn about indigenous plants and wildlife;
- 3.4. Ensure ecosystems are resilient to climate change;
- 3.5. Build capacity and raise awareness of individual responsibility to maintain biodiversity on private land;
- 3.6. Encourage conservation-focussed volunteering in the community; and
- 3.7. Monitor and report on biodiversity-related actions.
- 3.8. The City of Burnside has a thorough approach to Environmental Sustainability with relevant matters embedded across Council's policies and addressed through Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

4. Legislative Requirements and Corporate Policy Context

The following legislation has relevant to this Policy.

- 4.1. **Environment Protection Act, 1993 (South Australia)**, wherein the Objects of the Act (Part 2, 10.1) include:
 - 4.1.1. Promoting the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD); and
 - 4.1.2. Ensuring all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment having regard to the principles of ESD.
- 4.2. **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 (Commonwealth)**, wherein the Objects of the Act (Part 1, 3.1) include:
 - 4.2.1. To provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance;
 - 4.2.2. To promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
 - 4.2.3. To promote the conservation of biodiversity; and
 - 4.2.4. To promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples.
- 4.3. **Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2005 (South Australia)**, wherein a council that has the care, control or management of land in the country or in a designated urban bushfire risk area, must take reasonable steps (Part 4A, Division 3, 105G.1):
 - 4.3.1. To prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on the land;
 - 4.3.2. To prevent or inhibit the spread of fire through the land;
 - 4.3.3. To protect property on the land from fire; and
 - 4.3.4. To minimise the threat to human life from a fire on the land.
- 4.4. **Landscape South Australia Act, 2019 (South Australia)**, wherein the Objects of the Act (Part 1, 7.1) include management of the landscape that:
 - 4.4.1. Promotes, protects and conserves biodiversity, and insofar as is reasonably practicable, supports and encourages the restoration or rehabilitation of ecological systems and processes that have been lost or degraded, and promotes the health of ecosystems so that they are resilient in the face of change;
 - 4.4.2. Recognises that climate change is a significant factor in our environment (including a recognition of the need for mitigation and adaptation);
 - 4.4.3. Provides for the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals and plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community;

- 4.4.4. Promotes the collaborative management of native animals that adversely affect the natural or built environments, people or primary production or other industries;
 - 4.4.5. Provides educational initiatives and provides support mechanisms to strengthen the skills, knowledge and capacity of people to sustainably manage natural resources; and
 - 4.4.6. Supports initiatives or action to facilitate the increased capacity of people to engage in processes under this Act, including through the provision of information relevant to the protection, enhancement or management of landscapes.
- 4.5. **Local Government Act, 1999 (South Australia)**, wherein the Objects of the Act (Chapter 1, 3) include:
- 4.5.1. To encourage local government to provide appropriate services and facilities to meet the present and future needs of local communities; and
 - 4.5.2. To encourage local government to manage the natural and built environment in an ecologically sustainable manner.
- 4.6. **National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (South Australia)**, wherein:
- 4.6.1. Native plants must not be taken from land reserved for or dedicated to public purposes (Part 4, 46.1.c);
 - 4.6.2. A person must not take a protected animal, or the eggs of a protected animal (Part 5, 51.1); and
 - 4.6.3. A person must not release native species from captivity without appropriate authorisation (Part 5, 55).
- 4.7. **Native Vegetation Act, 1991 (South Australia)**, which applies to areas within the Hills Face Zone (Part 1, 4.2.a), wherein the Objects of the Act include:
- 4.7.1. The conservation, protection and enhancement of the native vegetation of the State and, in particular, remnant native vegetation, in order to prevent further— (i) reduction of biological diversity and degradation of the land and its soil; and (ii) loss of quantity and quality of native vegetation in the State; and (iii) loss of critical habitat (Part 2, 6.a); and
 - 4.7.2. The encouragement of the re-establishment of native vegetation in those parts of the State where native vegetation has been cleared or degraded. (Part 2, 6.e).

5. Interpretation

Council adopts the following definitions for this policy.

- 5.1. **Biodiversity** refers to the variety of living things on Earth. This term is used by Council to describe sites where indigenous plants are the focus (i.e. 'biodiversity sites'). While these sites are managed to create healthy habitat, biodiversity is not limited to these sites. Biodiversity exists in public parks and streetscapes, as well as in private gardens everywhere.
- 5.2. **Council** means the City of Burnside and **City** refers to the area governed by the Council, including urban and hills face areas.

- 5.3. **Habitat** refers to the place where a plant, animal or other organism may naturally be found and which meets the environmental needs of the organism.
- 5.4. **Indigenous** refers to plants, animals and other organisms that are naturally found in the City and may also be found naturally in other places (e.g. River Red Gums, Gold Dust Wattle and Hardenbergia are indigenous plants, while an Australian Magpie is an indigenous animal).
- 5.5. **Invasive** refers to non-indigenous plants or animals that can spread in a way that makes it difficult to control (e.g. Arum Lilies are invasive along waterways).
- 5.6. **Weed** refers to a plant that is either not locally indigenous or is not intentionally planted to contribute function to a landscape, including environmental weeds (plants which invade and threaten indigenous habitats) and declared weeds (Landscape South Australia Act), and Weeds of National Significance (Australian Weeds Strategy).

6. Policy Objectives/Scope/Actions

Council will:

- 6.1. Protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity within the City, working towards functional, connected and resilient ecosystems;
- 6.2. Manage the risk of uncontrolled fires on public land that is managed for biodiversity;
- 6.3. Promote and celebrate indigenous biodiversity and the value of this biodiversity to the community;
- 6.4. Recognise and celebrate the long history and spiritual connection of the Kaurna Community to places and species within the City; and
- 6.5. Work strategically with land managers within and adjacent to the City to enhance landscape connectivity and maximise synergies in the management and promotion of biodiversity.

To achieve these objectives, Council will:

- 6.6. Develop and implement science-based management and action plans to support the policy objectives;
- 6.7. Build strategic relationships and partnerships with government agencies, regional organisations, property owners, residents, local businesses, community groups, agencies, and within local government;
- 6.8. Engage, educate, build capacity and support the local community in the management of biodiversity;
- 6.9. Consult Kaurna Community representatives regarding Kaurna knowledge, connection to country and opportunities for interpretation of biodiversity;
- 6.10. Maintain the organisational knowledge required to plan and conduct conservation and land management programs;
- 6.11. Seek external funding to support or enhance planning and on-ground action; and
- 6.12. Maintain a system to monitor and evaluate the health of biodiversity within the City, plus related activities;

- 6.13. Provide regular reports on biodiversity management and performance through the framework for reporting on Environmental Sustainability.

Actions for Council owned or managed land:

- 6.14. Protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity working towards functional and resilient ecosystems;
- 6.15. Balance the needs of all indigenous species when making management decisions with an ecosystem-based approach;
- 6.16. Manage risk of uncontrolled fire through land management programs;
- 6.17. Reduce negative impacts of weeds and invasive species;
- 6.18. Encourage the community to experience local biodiversity;
- 6.19. Enable volunteer opportunities that contribute to the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity; and
- 6.20. Propagate plants of local provenance and appropriate genetics for local planting programs.

Additional actions:

- 6.21. For land not owned or managed by Council (i.e. private land and land owned or managed by State, Commonwealth or other Local Governments, including land adjoining the City):
- 6.22. Advocate for the protection and enhancement of indigenous vegetation to create habitat and ecosystems that are functional and resilient; and
- 6.23. Advocate for the control of weeds and invasive species.
- 6.24. Promote the ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity that exists across the City;
- 6.25. Engage and educate the community regarding the conservation and value of local biodiversity;
- 6.26. Support planting of local native plants on private land;
- 6.27. Build community capacity to support biodiversity, through education and resources; and
- 6.28. Monitor and report on progress in restoring biodiversity and other biodiversity-related actions and advocacy.

7. Review and Authority

- 7.1. This Policy will be reviewed in accordance with Council's Policy and Procedure Framework.

8. Availability

- 8.1. The Policy is available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's website www.burnside.sa.gov.au
- 8.2. The Policy will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the Civic Centre during ordinary business hours and a copy may be purchased at a fee as set annually by Council.

- 8.2.1. City of Burnside Civic Centre; 401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore SA 5065
Telephone; 8366 4200; Email; burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au Office
hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm (except public holidays)

9. Further information

- 9.1. For further information about this policy please contact:

City of Burnside Civic Centre; 401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore SA 5065
Telephone; 8366 4200; Email; burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au