
Report of the General Manager - 26 May 2015

ITEM 6.5

Biodiversity Strategic Plan

DELIVERY PROGRAM (2013-2017)

TA 7. Our City's biodiversity will be protected and conserved with increased awareness in our Community.

TA 8. Council is a regional leader for catchment management and sustainability.

TA 24. Council continues to be financially sustainable.

AUTHOR

City Planning and Environment

ISSUE

In 2002 Bankstown City Council's first Biodiversity Strategy was adopted. The 2015-2025 Biodiversity Strategic Plan (BSP) replaces the old strategy to address changes in legislation, asset management programs and market mechanisms to achieve biodiversity outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

That -

1. Council publicly exhibit the draft Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2015-2025.
2. A further report be submitted to Council after the public exhibition period.

BACKGROUND

For over a decade the planning, development and management of private and public land biodiversity has been guided by the Bankstown City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2002.

On ground works resulting from the strategy have included the Duck River, Salt Pan Creek and Little Salt Pan Creek biodiversity corridor restoration works.

As the City's population expands further pressure will be placed on biodiversity.

A revised Biodiversity Strategic Plan that reflects current biodiversity management concepts and legislation is required for Council to effectively deliver improved biodiversity across the city and broader environmental catchments.

REPORT

The new Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2015-2025 (BSP) outlines the strategic approach to biodiversity management over the coming decade.

While Bankstown is generally a fully urbanised area, it still exhibits natural features that have environmental, social and economic value.

Within the Bankstown Local Government Area (LGA) there are approximately 276 hectares (Ha) of natural area community land within which most of Bankstown Council's biodiversity is represented. There are a range of legislated Endangered Ecological Communities in the LGA that require protection and management.

In addition, private open space contributes to biodiversity and includes the Georges River National Park, schools, golf courses and residential properties.

Council has previously adopted Conservation Corridors across the LGA which have had a range of biodiversity works undertaken within them, including creekline restorations, water quality control, bushland regeneration and restoration, feral animal control and community tree planting days.

The Strategic Plan

The 2015-2025 Biodiversity Strategic Plan keeps up with some of the previous Biodiversity Strategy themes, including biodiversity corridors (with modifications), pest management and threatened species management. The Plan also incorporates new Principles which Council will consider if proposing to undertake Offsetting to manage unavoidable impacts on biodiversity. The Strategic Plan introduces further guidance on carbon sequestration and biobanking. New mapping, legislative changes, bushfire management and bushland/vegetation asset evaluation methods have also been incorporated.

Under each of these objectives a range of Strategies have been developed for Council to implement. In total 6 broad strategy groups have been identified from which 52 strategic actions have been developed.

The Biodiversity Strategic Plan provides a framework for protecting, enhancing and managing biodiversity and identifies objectives which will;

- Maintain and improve ecological processes, including with reference to indigenous flora and fauna species, populations and communities and other significant habitat, especially with relation to the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995
- Develop new programs and initiatives available to local governments regarding biodiversity management which are underpinned by biodiversity being regarded as a financial asset
- Establish, maintain and improve conservation corridors
- Establish a net increase in vegetation across the LGA on both public and private land
- Ensure that the protection of biodiversity and the principles of ESD (Environmentally Sustainable Development) are properly integrated into Council's land use planning, environmental management and other relevant areas of BCC's operational works;
- Provide guidelines, staff and resources to facilitate improved environmental management practices across Bankstown

- Consult with the community and encourage participation in activities to improve the City's natural and built environment and enhancing community ownership and participation in protecting biodiversity
- Secure funding (through grant opportunities or investment) and resources needed to implement the Biodiversity Strategic Plan.

Exhibition

The draft Biodiversity Strategic Plan is placed on public exhibition and a further report brought back to Council following community feedback.

POLICY IMPACT

The 2015-2025 Biodiversity Strategic Plan supersedes the 2002 Biodiversity Strategy. The Plan supports Council's existing position on biobanking recently undertaken in Lansdowne as well as Council's Plans of Management.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no financial impact from the adoption of the 2015-2025 Biodiversity Strategic Plan. Actions from the Strategic Plan will be considered in future Operational Plans or separate reports to Council.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council publicly exhibit the draft Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2015-2025.
2. A further report be submitted to Council after the public exhibition period.

ATTACHMENTS [Click here for attachments](#)

- A. Draft Biodiversity Strategic Plan