

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Biodiversity Response Planning?

Biodiversity Response Planning is a long-term area-based planning approach to biodiversity conservation in Victoria. It is designed to strengthen alignment, engagement and participation between government, Traditional Owners, non-government agencies and the community.

Why do we need Biodiversity Response Planning?

Biodiversity Response Planning is how we're implementing Victoria's plan for Biodiversity, *Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037* in different places.


Biodiversity Response Planning is about making the most of our collective effort to improve biodiversity and is a key pathway for Victoria's biodiversity to be healthy, valued and actively cared for.

How was the Biodiversity Response Planning approach decided?

The implementation of the Biodiversity Response Planning approach was co-designed in late 2017. A series of workshops were held over October and November 2017 that included over 100 people from community groups/networks, government and non-government including some Traditional Owner organisations.

The outcomes of the co-design set the overall approach of Biodiversity Response Planning. The current Biodiversity Response Planning process builds on this original work as we continue to learn how to work together most effectively for biodiversity.

 [Co-design overview report 2017 \(PDF, 2.1 MB\)](#)

 [Co-design overview report 2017 \(accessible version\) \(DOCX, 4.3 MB\)](#)

What work has taken place as part of Biodiversity Response Planning to date?

On-ground projects: In 2018, priorities for on-ground biodiversity action were identified by stakeholder working groups and [85 on-ground biodiversity projects](#) were then developed and funded. These 3-year projects are currently being implemented. Each of the projects were assessed on their contribution to the statewide targets of [Biodiversity 2037](#). This work has been referred to as 'BRP Phase 1'.

Prioritising areas for action: Through 2019 and 2020, we worked with partners to prioritise areas for action within Focus Landscapes. Data on the status of key biodiversity values and threats has been collected, collated and shared among stakeholders via ecological modelling, Traditional Owner involvement, stakeholder workshops, and qualitative data. This data informed the identification of what we are calling 'Focus Landscapes'. A fact sheet has been prepared for each Focus Landscape.

What is a Focus Landscape?

A Focus Landscape is a place within which priorities for on-ground biodiversity action are located. Using stakeholder input, local knowledge and scientific tools like [Strategic Management Prospects](#), DELWP and stakeholders identified landscapes that are likely to give the greatest benefit for biodiversity.



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How were the Focus Landscapes determined?

Each DELWP region developed the Focus Landscapes in consultation with Traditional Owners and stakeholders. The type of consultation varied across the regions depending on what the stakeholders' needs were. Broadly, DELWP developed initial maps of options and priorities that were workshopped with stakeholders. Stakeholder input and scientific tools guided the selection of the current Focus Landscapes.

It is important to note that Biodiversity Response Planning has been developed as an ongoing process where improved information over time will enable progressive review and refinement of those priorities.

Why hasn't my area been identified in a Focus Landscape?

Decisions on what areas would become Focus Landscapes were guided by stakeholder input and scientific tools like Strategic Management Prospects. Actions undertaken in the Focus Landscapes will likely deliver high benefits to biodiversity overall, however there will also be important actions for certain species and communities outside the Focus Landscapes that can be progressively added as part of the ongoing process.

What are the Fact Sheets?

The Fact Sheets provide information about each Focus Landscape across Victoria. They contain general information on the key values of each area, as well as the priority cost-effective actions that provide the best protection of biodiversity values. The Fact Sheets reflect information available in 2020.

What can the Fact Sheets be used for?

The Fact Sheets provide useful biodiversity information for the community, non-government and government organisations during project planning and development. They can be used to provide direction on what on-ground activities would be highest priority to do to get the best biodiversity result. This can be helpful when thinking about applying for funding to undertake on ground projects.

What is the expected outcome from Biodiversity Response Planning?

Biodiversity Response Planning aims to progressively deliver a collective, area-based response to the statewide management targets set out in [Biodiversity 2037](#). The Biodiversity Response Planning process is an important way for partners and stakeholders to build a shared understanding, and develop collective actions, around the needs for biodiversity in a particular area.

The knowledge gained through Biodiversity Response Planning will inform other relevant processes that are considering biodiversity such as Regional Catchment Strategies and regional forest management planning.

Who is leading Biodiversity Response Planning?

DELWP is facilitating the Biodiversity Response Planning process, involving other government agencies, Traditional Owners, non-government agencies and the community.

What are the next steps for Biodiversity Response Planning?

Biodiversity Response Planning has been developed as an ongoing process where improved information over time will enable progressive review and refinement of priorities for biodiversity action. It is also intended to continually strengthen partnerships and alignment of effort across the biodiversity sector to achieve the aims of Biodiversity 2037 and consistent with the outcomes from the 2018 (Phase 1) evaluation.

The outputs from Biodiversity Response Planning will be used to inform Victorian Government biodiversity investment processes including community grants and will be updated when required for this purpose. For example, the Fact Sheets provide useful biodiversity information for the community, non-government and government organisations during project planning and development. Other investors can also use this information as it shows the cost-effective actions to improve biodiversity and reflects the values and input from a wide range of stakeholders.

More information about [current on-ground grants and other investment processes](#) is available.

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What are the outcomes of the 2018 Biodiversity Response Planning Evaluation?

An evaluation of the 2018 Biodiversity Response Planning (Phase 1) was led by an independent evaluation expert. The evaluation provided an opportunity for participants to have their say on what worked well and what did not. The evaluation highlighted a number of areas to improve in order to achieve the aspirations of stakeholders who co-designed Biodiversity Response Planning or were part of this first phase.

DELWP, in consultation with key environmental agencies and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, prepared a response to the evaluation that set out a commitment to act on the findings and work together to ensure the Biodiversity 2037 outcomes and targets are achieved.

Outcomes from the evaluation have informed how Biodiversity Response Planning was undertaken in 2019 and 2020 and will continue to do so in future years.



[Biodiversity Response Planning Phase 1 Summary Report \(PDF, 834.4 KB\)](#)



[DELWP Response BRP Phase 1 Evaluation \(PDF, 204.3 KB\)](#)



[DELWP Response BRP Phase 1 Evaluation \(accessible version\) \(DOCX, 102.1 KB\)](#)

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