

Pest Control

Our Predator Control Strategy identifies priority areas for undertaking pest control (fox, rabbit and cat) and provides guidance on the most appropriate control techniques. It brings together all of the organisations involved in planning predator control around Western Port to drive innovation, standards and collaboration and ensure works are undertaken effectively and efficiently.



*The Predator Control Strategy focuses primarily on foxes.
Photo courtesy of Growing Connections Monitoring Program*

Monitoring

Up to 65 motion-sensing cameras help us monitor the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and its relationship with predators, as well as other species that make their home in the biosphere.

The data collected contributes to our overall knowledge of biodiversity health in the Reserve, helping us to reduce pest numbers and encourage native species to flourish.

Fire Management

Pre-fire surveys and a small controlled burn have been undertaken by City of Casey near Blind Bight. Monitoring of the site will help inform future management of this and similar sites around the Western Port coast line.

Our Achievements since 2012

In conjunction with our partners, the Growing Connections project has:

- revegetated 116 hectares
- planted well in excess of 100,000 plants
- protected 887 hectares of remnant vegetation
- collated and analysed over 2,000,000 photos of animals
- undertaken pest control management in excess of 350ha
- developed a Predator Control Strategy
- developed an innovative Biodiversity Plan
- fostered key partnerships to achieve great outcomes for biodiversity



Swamp Skink. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Legg

More information

Visit our website for more information :
www.biosphere.org.au/biosphere-projects/growing-connections

Or contact Chris Chambers, Project Coordinator
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Growing Connections (2012-2017) is supported by the Australian Government.



**An initiative of the Western Port Biosphere,
supported by the Australian Government.**

The Growing Connections project (2012 – 2017) aims to connect and improve habitat corridors within the Western Port Biosphere Reserve to create a biodiverse and resilient biosphere.

We work with more than 25 partners across the biosphere, including community groups, councils, businesses, individuals, and government agencies.

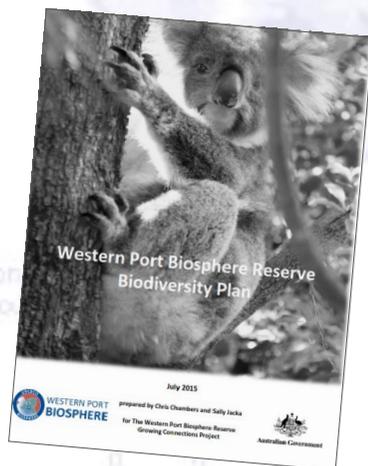
Our Activities

Biodiversity Plan

The Western Port Biosphere Reserve Biodiversity Plan is helping to promote collaboration between agencies, community groups and individuals in the biosphere, and guide environmental works that protect and enhance our biodiversity into the future.

The Plan embraces an innovative methodology that successfully melds scientific research with community values and ideas, and input from agencies. As a “living document” it will be updated with the latest scientific data, agency plans and strategies, and the knowledge gained by everyone involved.

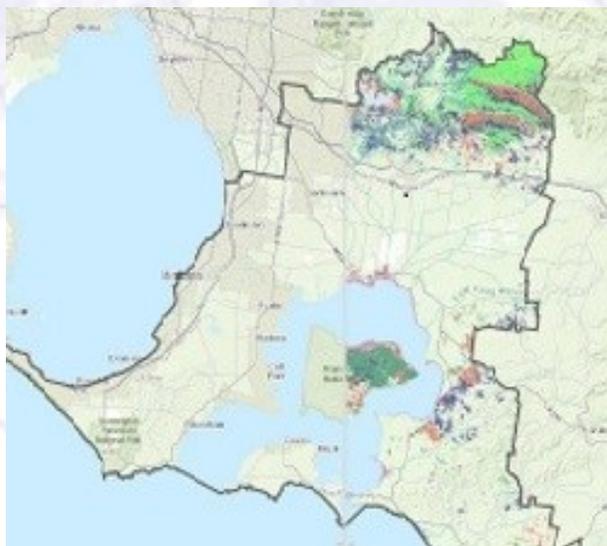
The online version of the Plan includes a portal through which anyone undertaking works can add project information and learn about other projects being implemented.



Enabling Systems (Mapping the Biosphere)

Global Information Systems (GIS) and GPS based tools are helping the Growing Connections project to better communicate project information. These include:

- GPS-based tools that promote consistency and make it easier to upload data in the field across our monitoring, pest control, revegetation and restoration works
- Four Google Earth-style interactive maps or “storyboards” that use GIS technology to demonstrate:
 - ◇ the online Biodiversity Plan and related portals
 - ◇ the extent and different zones of the Western Port Biosphere Reserve
 - ◇ changes to vegetation over time across the Reserve
 - ◇ our monitoring program



Interactive storyboard showing changes to vegetation over time in the biosphere.

On-Ground Works

Revegetation and remnant vegetation protection has been completed in key areas of the biosphere landscape to improve biodiversity, ecosystem function and resilience. This important work of improving landscape health and function, carried out by our delivery partners, will continue until the end of the project in June 2017.



Woody weed removal. Photo courtesy of Robbie Gray



Revegetation on French Island. Photo courtesy of French Island Landcare

Biodiversity Forum

Our annual Biodiversity Forum provides a valuable opportunity for councils, community and Landcare groups, businesses and interested individuals to collaborate, share knowledge and develop connections across the Biosphere Reserve.