



WESTERN PORT BIOSPHERE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 2020

The Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve is designated under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program.

The Biosphere reserve is a place where people attain an enduring relationship with the natural world and contribute to the needs of society as a whole by showing a way to a more socially, environmentally and economically sustainable future

VISION

Harmony in the interactions between people and, the ecosystems that support them.

MISSION

The Biosphere Foundation will provide leadership on innovative approaches to sustainable development and conservation and collaborate with partners, stakeholders and the Biosphere community to transform the future for the benefit of people and the environment.

GOALS

To achieve our VISION, we will:

1. **Foster** conservation at the interface between ecosystems and human activity.
2. **Promote** social and economic development in harmony with the Biosphere.
3. **Cultivate** alliances to advance informed, sustainable decisions.
4. **Strengthen** our Biosphere organisation to facilitate achievement of the Strategy.

GOAL 1

Foster conservation at the interface between ecosystems and human activity.

Priority

Enhance and biodiversity the Biosphere Foundation's networks and partnerships which support our understanding, including:

- Expanding Western Port Biosphere Water Stewardship project
- Developing the next stage of Growing Connections
- Promote the Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Program
- Participating in Ramsar projects
- Increasing investments in the natural and social sciences to improve our knowledge about the region

GOAL 2

Promote social and economic harmony within the Biosphere.

Priority

Encourage and promote opportunities which are linked to:

- Achieving an improved public profile, strengthened reputation and awareness for our Biosphere Foundation including education, training, marketing and brand
- Understanding the social and economic challenges for our communities to live sustainably in our Biosphere
- Nurturing the development and support of Biosphere "champions"
- Understanding the vulnerabilities of our Biosphere resources such as - water, food and energy
- Engaging the community through participating in social and cultural events.
- Promote the Biosphere's work through existing local demonstration sites

GOAL 3

Cultivate alliances to advance informed, sustainable decisions

Priority

Growing collaborative relationships to enable supplement and enhance the Biosphere Foundation's capacity to achieve its vision and:

- Seek opportunities that enable the Biosphere Foundation to lead and discussion and influence policy direction concerning the region
- Enhance our data and analytics capability to enable informed discussion and contribute to strategic decision making
- Expanding our existing relationships that enable Biosphere Foundation's capacity to advance and deliver projects
- Leveraging opportunities to benchmark existing and planned environmental, ecological and energy efficiency projects
- Expanding our membership base

GOAL 4

Strengthen our Biosphere organisation to facilitate achievement of the Strategy.

Priority

Securing the organisational wellbeing of the Biosphere office:

- Identifying potential key corporate and philanthropic partners to enhance and extend our accessible asset base
- Developing a Biosphere fundraising program
- Attracting, developing and retaining staff whose performance contribute to our goals
- Augmenting the effectiveness of decision making with an enhancement of our governance capability
- Supporting professional development of staff and board members to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of the Foundation.
- expand the area covered by the Western Port Biosphere to encompass full area of member Council boundaries

OUR GOALS WILL BE EXHIBITED IN OUR:

<p>SOURCE OF AUTHORITY We aspire to be a legitimate source of information and point of reference for social and environmental sustainability within the region by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively promoting, educating and participating in the biosphere program • Openly approaching the diversity of understanding and perceptions of biodiversity • Encouraging and promoting advocates and champions for WPB • Developing an authoritative data base to enable analytics on key indicators 	<p>STRATEGIC COLLABORATION We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define our role in the Australian Biosphere Network • Develop alliances with relevant educational institutions (for example, Monash Sustainability Institute) • Promote graduate research and employment opportunities associated with Biosphere projects • Strengthen our alliances with member Councils, plus State and Federal agencies • Promote and increase membership, volunteers and community engagement
<p>ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify projects and areas of research that will enhance community understanding of the environment and human interaction 	<p>ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure we have the people, office resources and systems to develop, sustain and expand our services • Ensure governance and policies support a transparent and accountable organisation