

## 4.1 EASTERN REGION PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020-2030

Responsible Director: Ossie Martinz

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council notes the Eastern Region Pest Management Strategy.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Invasive pest species pose one of the most significant threats to Australia's ecosystems and agricultural enterprises. In Victoria, animal pest invasions have resulted in sustained declines in biodiversity, reduction in land productivity and increased market prices for the consumer. Despite pest management being regarded as a priority by many government bodies, community groups and landowners, pest animals continue to increase in range and density.

City of Monash is a partner in the development of the Eastern Region Pest Strategy to help manage challenges relating to five key pest species across the eastern Melbourne region.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2019, Eastern Region Pest Animal Network (the Network) was formed in a volunteer capacity to conduct research and develop a strategy to help minimise the impacts of pest animals across the region. The Network partners include:–

- City of Whitehorse
- City of Boroondara
- City of Maroondah
- City of Banyule
- Nillumbik Shire
- City of Manningham
- City of Monash
- City of Greater Dandenong
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria
- Vic Roads (Department of Transport)
- Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority
- City of Casey
- City of Frankston
- Yarra Ranges Shire
- Cardinia Shire
- City of Monash
- City of Knox

### **DISCUSSION**

The Strategy was focussed on five key pest species – Feral Cats, European Fox, Feral Deer, European Rabbit and Common Myna Birds. Monash mainly has issues with feral cats, foxes and pest birds on occasion. There are management practices in place such as baiting foxes and in addition to the trapping of feral cats that occurs throughout the municipality, the incoming cat curfew will also assist in the management of domestic cats and their impact on native wildlife. (See Appendix 1)

The Network engaged Ecological Australia (EA) to facilitate the development of this Strategy. EA carried out the desktop research and facilitated a consultation process which included a mix of online surveys, interviews and workshops to draft the strategy with 18 government agencies.

A full analysis of the issues such as pest impacts on road safety, biodiversity and farming was completed and as well as some best practice management practices for dealing with pest animals. Key actions include – Coordination and Leadership, Awareness, Mitigation and Monitoring along with a set of standard operating procedures to manage each pest species.

To implement the strategy, an action plan will be developed for Monash in collaboration with the strategy partners.

### ***POLICY IMPLICATIONS***

The Eastern Region Pest Management Strategy supports the priorities of the Urban Biodiversity Strategy and Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT***

Better management of key pest species across the region will help to protect our vulnerable native animals and birds which already face challenges and pressure in their local urban environment. It also provides a clear direction that coordinates these agencies for the management of five priority pest species across eastern Melbourne.

### ***CONSULTATION***

A number of workshops were held with council members and partners to develop the strategy. Consultation has been undertaken internally with the Executive Leadership Team in September 2020, and input was sought from Managers and teams of Community Amenity and Horticulture.

### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Our pest problems are relatively minor but there may be financial savings by collaborating with other councils to implement this strategy to refine approaches and learn from other councils on how best to reduce the impact of pest animals.

### ***CONCLUSION***

The Eastern Regional Pest Management Strategy is being presented to Council so they can acknowledge and note the document prior to the development of the implementation plan.

Link to document - Eastern Region Pest Management Strategy  
Volumes 1 and 2

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AmvFiWd0Yw2XiAHEd6yQFLocsqRK?e=DUTHpE>





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