

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

HOW DO WE CARE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT?

Council has 11.5kms of coastline and 20kms of creek lines as well as aquifers throughout our area. The area is home to native species of plants, particularly along the coastline. These species are being lost with the introduction of plants from overseas and other parts of Australia as well as weed encroachment caused by the substantially urban nature of our area. Council uses native and exotic plants and has started a biodiversity team to maintain some areas.

The City has seen historical works and site uses which have left us a legacy of contamination in our soils and groundwater that needs to be dealt with now.

Some issues already raised

- Weeds and exotic plants are encroaching sand dunes along the foreshore.
- Specialised skills are needed to manage biodiversity sites properly.
- Locally native (or provenance) plants can be lost forever without proper management and propagation.
- Groundwater contamination and stormwater pollution in creeks and along the coast.
- Historical land use has caused soil contamination issues across some areas of Council.

Things we could do

- Seek to partner with State government and research institutions to better understand, communicate about and develop solutions to soil and groundwater contamination.
- Expand our already high use of local provenance plants in landscaping in both Council plantings and within private gardens.
- Expand the staff involved in biodiversity site management and more actively support community groups who want to look after biodiversity sites, including dunes, wetlands, creek lines and RTLP and at public reserves.
- Work closely with our community on managing weed plants across the City.

What other issues or actions should we be aware of?
What else would you like to see happening?

