

Information Sheet 1: Biodiversity

What is Biodiversity?

“Biodiversity is all components of the living world: the number and variety of native plants, animals and other living things across our land, rivers, coasts, and ocean. It includes the variety of their genetic information, their habitats, and their relationship to the ecosystems within which they live, and their connections with other life forms and the natural world.” (*Protecting Victoria’s Environment - Biodiversity 2037*, page 4) You may think of it simply as nature.

What is the current condition of Victoria’s biodiversity?

- There are more than 5,000 plants and 1,200 vertebrate animals native to Victoria. Over a third of these species are of conservation concern (i.e. classified as rare, threatened or near-threatened).
- There is a continued decline in the quality and extent of habitat of native species.
- Threats to biodiversity include habitat loss, weeds, pest animals and changed fire and water regimes – all of which will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.
- Biodiversity has been historically under-valued and is not accounted for in the economy, yet it provides enormous benefits to society.

Why is healthy biodiversity important?

- It is fundamental to the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of current and future generations.
- It reduces the impacts of climate change.
- It is important to Victorians’ identity.
- It is fundamental to the cultural practices of Aboriginal Victorians.
- It has intrinsic value and a right to exist, regardless of human considerations.

Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037

[Protecting Victoria’s Environment - Biodiversity 2037](#) is Victoria’s plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve the natural environment, so that it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.

View the YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ad9dutd-Ms> on Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037

Junior Landcare Learning Centre

The following are examples of some of the learning activities from the [Junior Landcare Learning Centre](#) that may assist with the planning of your biodiversity-focused planting project: [Creating a wildlife habitat: design](#); [Creating a frog-friendly habitat: design](#); [Creating an Indigenous plant-use garden: plant list](#).