



**MIDCOAST**  
council



# **OVERVIEW: MIDCOAST BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK 2020-2030**

**A ROADMAP FOR CONSERVING  
NATURAL HERITAGE OF THE MIDCOAST**

## PROTECTING OUR PATCH

It's no secret that the MidCoast is rich in natural treasures, from stunning beaches and sea-cliffs, the high peaks and deep valley floors of the Great Dividing Range, pristine lakes and estuaries, and the unique and diverse wildlife. Together they make up our region's "biodiversity". This biodiversity is under increasing pressure and needs our help. We all have a role to play in protecting our patch, and the lifestyle we enjoy through our connection to nature.

That's why we're preparing a Biodiversity Framework, which will help us work with our community to conserve and manage the biodiversity and natural assets in our region.



## WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth - the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

Biodiversity includes:

- Genetic diversity - the variety of genetic information in individual plants, animals and micro-organisms
- Species diversity - the variety of species
- Ecosystem diversity - the variety of habitats, ecological communities and processes

## WHY BIODIVERSITY MATTERS

Our distinct and varied natural environment supports the health of our community, the strength of the economy and our way of life. Biodiversity benefits us all through providing:

- Physical and mental well-being
- Production economy
- Drinking water supply
- Tourism
- Amenity
- Aboriginal connection
- Resilience and adaptation

Our community recognised these benefits by listing 'protecting the natural environment' as one of five core values in the first MidCoast Community Strategic Plan in 2016.

## THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

Human activities and other pressures have driven the decline of our natural systems.

Some of these threats include:

- Land clearing and fragmentation
- Habitat degradation
- Introduced plants, pest animals and disease
- Altered fire regimes
- Altered hydrological regimes
- Pollution
- Hunting, culling, over-fishing and vehicle strikes
- Changing climate

The pressure from these mean we need to manage biodiversity more effectively.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE IN MANAGING BIODIVERSITY

MidCoast Council has a direct role in biodiversity conservation and management and in supporting the community.

Council is a service provider, a land use planning authority, a regulatory authority acting in the public interest and an owner of natural area reserves. It operates within a legal and regulatory framework that recognises the principles of ecologically sustainable development and delivers biodiversity conservation outcomes.

The Biodiversity Framework will establish strategic guidance for these activities so that they work in concert to appreciate, conserve and manage our region's natural assets.

# WHAT IS THE BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK?

Up until now, there has not been a coordinated approach to managing biodiversity in our region. And while plenty is being done, more effective outcomes can be achieved if everyone is working to a consistent set of objectives and under one blueprint.

This framework provides a roadmap for how we will work together to manage and conserve our natural environment. It brings together a series of tools, programs and actions in a format of four sections that promotes adaptive management, allowing us to respond to contemporary pressures and opportunities, as well as changing community values and priorities.

The draft has been developed from input over several phases from the community and stakeholders. Core to its development is a vision identified previously by the community:

**We understand, value, protect and enhance the biodiversity and natural heritage of the MidCoast region for the environmental, cultural and economic well-being of our community.**

Programs and actions core to the framework are grouped under six key themes in section 2:

## 1. ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Community education and participation  
Landholder engagement and incentives  
Partnerships for biodiversity  
Bushcare and Landcare support



## 2. RESERVES AND CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

Mapping and zoning protected areas  
Securing land for reserves  
Private land conservation  
Indigenous Protected Areas



## 3. LAND MANAGEMENT

Strategic weed program  
Pest animal management program  
Council bushland reserves management  
Significant roadside areas program  
Fish and wetland habitat programs  
Biodiversity disaster response and resilience  
Nature-based facilities  
Fire management



## 4. SCIENCE / KNOWLEDGE

Understanding flora and fauna species diversity  
Biodiversity research  
Vegetation mapping and monitoring  
Climate change adaptation  
Mapping important biodiversity and ecosystem service value lands  
Sub-catchment terrestrial landscape health reports  
Climate change  
Aboriginal cultural and community knowledge



## 5. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICIES

Local Conservation Action Plans  
Tops to Coast plan and mapping  
Threatened biodiversity management guidelines  
Coast and catchment management planning



## 6. LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Land use planning  
Biodiversity impact assessment (Development)  
Biodiversity impact assessment (Council activities)  
Development incentives for conservation  
Greening Strategy



## HOW WILL IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

The framework will be delivered within the Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework alongside the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and other departmental, branch and individual business plans. These plans formally document team responsibilities and actions, with requirements for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Budgets will be costed and allocated for implementation of the biodiversity program set out in section 2, as part of the annual budget cycle. The Environmental Rate funds a range of environmental actions and projects across the Region.

In addition, State and Commonwealth Governments and other organisations provide grant-funds for biodiversity-related projects.

## FIND OUT MORE

To view and have your say on the MidCoast Biodiversity Framework 2020 – 2030 and find out more about biodiversity in the MidCoast region, visit [www.haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au)



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