

Capel Sound Foreshore - ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES (at 5 Aug 2017)

Name of Proposed Initiative	Description and Rationale	Approach
2017 Vegetation Quality Baseline	<p>The vegetation baseline quality data established in 2007 by Gidja Walker/Imelda Douglas will be revised and updated to represent the values in 2017.</p> <p>This would inform all future environmental works by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying threatened species of flora to enable their effective management • re-generating the EVCs initially mapped in the Walker/Douglas report • establishing the baseline to measure the effectiveness of all future environmental works. 	<p>An environmental organisation has been engaged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitise the 2007 vegetation study making it GIS accessible • Re-do the vegetation mapping as it is in 2017 • Map the EVC Classes within the foreshore reserve • Compile and map significant flora species • Compile all data in a baseline data report. <p>This work commenced in July and is due to conclude in late August.</p>
Priority Weed Management Program	<p>Weed management is critical to the health of both the foreshore's indigenous flora and fauna.</p> <p>In 2016 the weeds occurring along the length of the CSF were surveyed, logged and management prescriptions were developed. A management program has been developed which targets priority weeds.</p>	<p>Resourcing to enable the implementation of the plan is now being considered. This is likely to involve the use of foreshore staff for the Winter period and the use of external resources during the Camping season (November to April).</p>
Orchid Protection and Restoration	<p>The high number of identified orchid sites, orchid species and their significance requires proper study and management.</p> <p>Unless this is done as a well-designed long-term program these significant foreshore flora will face ongoing threats to their survival.</p>	<p>Focussed specifically on the area between Trueman's Road and the boat ramp, an environmental organisation has been engaged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and digitally map the existing orchid sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This must include the species and their significance • Manage the identified sites in 2017, and • Provide a plan for the ongoing management of the identified sites.
Trapping Program (Foxes and Cats)	<p>Trapping programs for cats and black rats (and foxes?) are widespread across the peninsula as a means of protecting species and increasing the numbers of our indigenous fauna. The design, cost and likely impact of a program on the CSF must be considered.</p>	<p>Have contacted Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to understand the program they are running to the east of Chinaman's Creek and explore the possibility of working with them.</p>

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Camping Area Re-vegetation	<p>Over many years the vegetation throughout the camping areas of the CSF has been diminishing in both coverage and quality. This impacts both the habitat and corridors for fauna and also the foreshore experience enjoyed by campers.</p> <p>Re-vegetation design must find the right balance between the needs of campers and the quality of the foreshore's natural environment.</p>	<p>This is likely to require a 2-pronged approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first being to identify and re-vegetate areas throughout the campgrounds that are not used for camping but provide an opportunity to improve the foreshore attraction for camping as well as providing wildlife corridor • The second is to establish a design within the camping areas that will improve the camping experience while enabling good camping access. <p><i>To be done in conjunction with the Camping Strategy.</i></p>
Fencing (Tracks, etc)	<p>A program to protect significant vegetation and habitat should be scoped. This might include protective fencing and the elimination of unnecessary tracks through foreshore vegetation.</p>	<p>No plan yet exists</p> <p><i>To be done in conjunction with the Infrastructure Strategy</i></p>
Re-establish Coast Action Group	<p>Implementing a vegetation management program as will be needed along the CSF will require a massive amount of labour. This simply can't be done without a program of ongoing organised volunteers.</p>	<p>Plan to be developed soon.</p> <p><i>To be done in conjunction with Community Engagement Strategy</i></p>
Educational Signs	<p>Educational and directional signage is an important way to protect significant areas and to educate users of the foreshore in its care.</p>	<p>No plan yet exists</p> <p><i>To be addressed by Infrastructure Strategy</i></p>
Removal of Pine and Cyprus Trees	<p>A major impediment to the health of the foreshore vegetation is the existence of Pines and Cyprus along the length of the foreshore. Foreshore records show 800 of these were planted around 1945 and they are now nearing the end of their life. A long-term strategy needs to be developed to facilitate their efficient replacement with suitable indigenous trees.</p>	<p>No plan yet exists</p>
Monitor and Respond to Beach Erosion	<p>Being low lying and on the coast, the foreshore will be vulnerable to sea level changes and storm surges. Changes must be monitored and their impacts addressed.</p>	<p>No plan yet exists</p>
Undertake Updated Fauna Survey	<p>The extensive survey undertaken by Mal Legg provided a fauna baseline in 2007. Once the vegetation priorities have been implemented a further fauna survey will be undertaken to understand the changes since then and to inform future actions.</p>	<p>No plan yet exists</p>