

How Victorians can Act for Nature

Protecting Victoria's Environment
- Biodiversity 2037



A key goal of *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* is having all Victorians valuing nature.



We can all help protect nature!

Victorians are passionate about the environment and everyone can play a role. Increasing the opportunities for all Victorians to act to protect nature is a priority for 'Biodiversity 2037'.

Many of our everyday actions can impact nature either directly or indirectly. Human behaviour is a major driver of the threats to nature. Managing how we act can be a powerful way to support nature. To provide guidance about the actions people can take to protect nature, DELWP has collaborated with ICON Science (RMIT University) to identify which actions Victorians can take to have the greatest benefit for nature.

What are the key threats to Victoria's nature?

Experts agree that invasive species, habitat loss and climate change are three key threats to nature.

Which behaviours are 'best' for nature?

We brought environmental experts together to assess a list of human behaviours, which are recognised in scientific literature to be associated with threats to nature.

How our actions impact nature

- The simple act of spending time in nature means you are more likely to appreciate and care for nature. This means doing things that directly or indirectly protect nature.
- Volunteering for the environment means giving your time to care for nature. For example, collecting data helps us understand nature better, and how to protect it, or manage it better. Monitoring nature's health gives us knowledge to help build nature's resilience.
- Advocating for nature helps more people understand the importance of the environment. Hearing what other people are doing inspires more people to connect with, and act for nature. This builds our combined, shared effort in caring for nature.
- Choosing to plant native plants, or keeping your own wildlife garden, provides habitat and refuge for native species. This helps increase native populations and their ability to expand in the landscape.
- By being a responsible pet owner you can reduce a direct threat to local wildlife. Allowing your pets to roam increases predation and stress which can force wildlife out of the landscape completely.

What you can do!

We have identified 5 key actions that any Victorian can easily take to help protect nature (outlined below).

The research also identifies more than 20 additional actions that you may choose to do that will also provide valuable benefits to nature. This includes a range of actions that landholders can undertake to help protect nature on their own land.

Get out there¹

People who spend time in nature are more likely to act for nature

Get involved²

Volunteer for nature, or try some Citizen Science

Be a champion for nature³

Inspire family and friends with your great nature experiences

Enjoy nature in your own backyard⁴

Plant native plants, or keep a wildlife garden

Be a responsible pet owner⁵

Keep your cats contained at home and keep your dogs on a leash when visiting natural areas



**We can all act on these, right now.
Let's do it!**

These links can help you embrace these behaviours -

¹ <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/>

¹ <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/>

² <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/volunteering>

³ <https://www.rememberthewild.org.au/>

⁴ <https://gardensforwildlifevictoria.com/>

⁵ <http://www.safecat.org.au/>

Find more about how to care for nature at these websites!

www.ari.vic.gov.au/research/people-and-nature

www.vic.gov.au/victoria-its-our-nature

References -

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2. Stern, P.C. (2000), **New Environmental Theories: Toward a Coherent Theory of Environmentally Significant Behavior**. Journal of Social Issues, 56: 407-424. doi:10.1111/0022-4537.00175
3. Turaga, R.M.R., Howarth, R.B. and Borsuk, M.E. (2010), **Pro-environmental behavior**. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 1185: 211-224. doi:10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05163.x

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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