

Natural Areas Management Plan 2024-34 FAQs

What is the Natural Areas Management Plan ('the Plan') and why do we need one?

The Plan directs how the City will manage and protect its bushland, wetlands and coastal reserves over the next 10 years (2024–2034). It provides a management framework that aims to protect and improve local biodiversity while supporting community access, safety and recreation in natural areas.

Why has the Plan been updated?

The previous Plan was developed in 2014 and in effect between 2014–2024. The updated Plan includes new information, recent bushland survey results, additional new reserves managed by the City, and current best-practice approaches to natural area management.

Which areas are covered by the Plan?

The Plan applies to 33 City-managed natural area reserves, including bushland, wetlands, coastal areas and living streams across Kwinana. A map of all City-managed natural area reserves is available on pages 12-13 of the Plan.

Does it apply to private land or State-managed reserves?

No. The Plan only applies to natural areas that are owned or managed by the City of Kwinana.

How does the City manage weeds in natural areas?

Weeds are managed using a combination of methods, including revegetation, hand weeding, mechanical control and targeted herbicide use where appropriate.

Why aren't herbicides listed in detail in the Plan?

The Plan focuses on overall management strategies rather than prescribing specific products or techniques, which may change over time as best practice evolves.

Are herbicides used safely?

Any herbicide use complies with relevant legislation, safety requirements and industry best practice to minimise risks to people, wildlife and the environment.

What is dieback and why is it important?

Dieback is a plant disease that can kill native vegetation. While it occurs naturally, it can be easily spread through human activity. The City regularly surveys and manages dieback in susceptible reserves using measures such as hygiene controls, access management, signage, monitoring and targeted treatments to help limit its spread.

Dieback not only affects many native plants but can also affect some exotic garden species as well, such as some fruit and avocado trees.

Does the Plan include the control of feral animals such as rabbits, foxes and cats?

Yes. The Plan recognises feral animals as a threat to native wildlife and habitat and includes broad management actions to address their impacts. More detailed monitoring and control measures are guided through separate supporting plans, such as a Feral Animal

Management Plan. Domestic pet cats are managed under separate City policies and local laws.

Why are some areas fenced or closed?

Fencing and access controls are used to protect sensitive vegetation, wetlands and wildlife, and to reduce damage from vehicles or informal tracks.

Can I walk my dog or use trails in natural areas?

Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times while within natural areas to protect native wildlife such as birds, quenda, reptiles, and, in some areas, black-gloved wallabies and black cockatoos. Trails remain open for walking and recreation while sensitive habitats are protected.

Visit this City of Kwinana page for further information: <https://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/city-life/facilities-and-public-spaces/dog-exercise-areas>

Will more paths or trails be built?

Any new or upgraded trails will be carefully planned to balance community recreation with environmental protection. The City is progressively upgrading the Kwinana Loop Trail - a 21 km shared use trail - to improve the surface, signage and accessibility for walkers, cyclists and other users as part of a long-term [Kwinana Trails Network Master Plan](#) .

For the latest information on new or upgraded trails and project updates, visit the City of Kwinana's official [Trails page](#):

How does the City manage bushfire risk in natural areas?

Bushfire risk is managed to protect life, property and the environment using best-practice fire planning, including firebreaks and ecological burning where appropriate. Prescribed burns may occur but are carefully planned to balance fire risk reduction with biodiversity protection. Bushfire Risk is assessed through the City's Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

Can residents get involved in caring for natural areas?

Yes. The City supports community education and volunteering programs that allow residents to participate in conservation activities. Subscribe to the [Environment eNewsletter](#) for news on upcoming volunteering activities or contact the City's Environment team at environmentwaste@kwinana.wa.gov.au for more information.

How is the Plan funded?

Most actions are delivered within the City's existing natural areas management budget.

Does this mean higher rates?

No. The Plan does not propose rate increases specifically for natural area management.

How will the Plan be reviewed?

The actions set in the Plan will be monitored annually, with a formal mid-term review scheduled for 2027–2028.

Why doesn't the Plan address all environmental issues raised by the community?

Some topics - such as domestic cat containment or broader environmental regulation - sit outside the scope of the Plan and are managed through other City policies, strategies or legislation.