



SCIENCE AND  
INDUSTRY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND



# STEM Community Partnerships Program

## Canterbury Bankstown local scenario

### Biodiversity

A key challenge for the Western Sydney region is balancing the demands of a growing urban population with the need to protect its unique natural environments and to maintain biodiversity. Areas of bushland and natural vegetation are separated from human activities such as roads, housing and industrial zones. These areas are called biodiversity corridors which allow native animals, birds and insects to travel safely between the green areas as they search for food, shelter and find mates. These connections allow for seeds and pollen to be dispersed allowing plants to grow and thrive.

Large parks and bushland reserves provide some habitat and refuge for native animals, although sometimes these areas can be separated by great distances. Community members can create a habitat stepping stone by providing the right food, water and shelter in their backyard.

Within the Canterbury Bankstown local government area there are over 1,360 plant species, with 13 of these protected by the Threatened Species Conservation Act. There are also seven Endangered Ecological Communities in the area which are recorded under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act. On the opposite end of the this, forty species of birds have increased their range and population since 1984. The increase in bird species could be due to the ongoing native tree planting program in Council parks and the increased popularity of native plants in private gardens. Council also provides free native plants at regular intervals throughout the year.

Protected areas are crucial for conserving biodiversity and supporting ecological processes beneficial to human well-being. The Council has commenced works to maintain or improve biodiversity including the removal of noxious and environmental weeds, rubbish removal, pest animal and introduced species control, revegetation, bushland restoration, wetland rehabilitation and construction. Urban growth is inevitable, however through good planning and management the impacts on both the natural environment and communities can be minimised.

How your Council tackles the complexity of this issue impacts you and your community, now and in the future.

### Your task

Your task is to use the information above and resources provided below as a start to identify a local problem and design a STEM-focussed solution.

(Question, Design, Explore, Communicate)



Bankstown Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2015-2025

## Resources

### CSIRO research

- CSIRO Water Book <https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/Environment/Water/Water-Book/About>

### Reports

- Georges Riverkeeper Strategic Plan 2018-2022 <https://georgesriver.org.au/resources/georges-riverkeeper-strategic-plan-2018-2022>
- Bankstown Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2015-2025, <https://www.cbccity.nsw.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/biodiversity-corridors>
- High Ecological Value Waterways and Water Dependent Ecosystems – Canterbury Bankstown LGA, <https://researchdata.edu.au/high-ecological-value-bankstown-lga/1431860>

### Articles and other resources

- City of Canterbury Bankstown submission on the *Inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia*, City of Canterbury Bankstown, June 2020 <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=35c6e133-3953-4caa-bcd2-f1578976c67f&subId=690373>.
- Biodiversity Assessment, Sydney Metro, September 2017 [www.sydneymetro.info%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocument-library%2FSydenham%2520to%2520Bankstown%2520Environmental%2520Impact%2520State%2520Volume%25201B%2520Chapter%252022-29%2520C%2520Appendix%2520A-B.pdf&usg=AOvVaw36F7Vb9S5VzVdtsDv-QybW](http://www.sydneymetro.info%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocument-library%2FSydenham%2520to%2520Bankstown%2520Environmental%2520Impact%2520State%2520Volume%25201B%2520Chapter%252022-29%2520C%2520Appendix%2520A-B.pdf&usg=AOvVaw36F7Vb9S5VzVdtsDv-QybW)
- Biodiversity Corridors, City of Canterbury Bankstown <https://www.cbccity.nsw.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/biodiversity-corridors>
- Your native garden guide, City of Canterbury Bankstown <https://www.cbccity.nsw.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/native-plants>