



SCIENCE AND
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STEM Community Partnerships Program

Fairfield 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. Since European settlement, the vegetation cover in Fairfield has been reduced by approximately 83%.¹ Fairfield City Council's Biodiversity Strategy has been developed to put in place measures to ensure that current and future generations can enjoy the natural areas and they continue to provide diverse communities for local flora and fauna.

Most of the native vegetation communities in the Fairfield local government area are listed as threatened, endangered and vulnerable. These include the Gang-gang cockatoo, Eastern Pygmy possum, Green and gold bell frog and Yellow-bellied glider. Council's Biodiversity Strategy aims to provide priorities for the conservation of native plants, animals, habitat and ecological processes in Fairfield City.

Protected areas are crucial for conserving biodiversity and supporting ecological processes beneficial to human well-being. 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.



² Shaping a Diverse City, Fairfield City 2040 A Land Use Vision, p12

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)

Resources

CSIRO research

- CSIRO Biodiversity information <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/natural-environment/biodiversity>

Reports

- Rare and threatened flora of Fairfield LGA, 2019
https://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/community/2019_rare_and_threatened_flora_of_fairfield_local_government_area_booklet.pdf
- ¹ Fairfield Biodiversity Strategy, 2012 page 1
https://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/building_development/fairfield_biodiversity_strategy_adopted_may_2012.pdf
- ² Shaping a Diverse City, Fairfield City 2040 A Land Use Vision, 30 March 2020 https://shared-drupal-s3fs.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/master-test/fapub_pdf/Local+Strategic+Planning+Statements/LSPS+2020/Fairfield+City+Local+Strategic+Planning+Statment+2040+-+Published+30+March+2020_S-1039.pdf
- NSW Government Native biodiversity in Sydney <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/sydney-nature/native-biodiversity>

Articles and other resources

- Council wants help planting millions of trees, Fairfield City Champion, May 2020
<https://www.fairfieldchampion.com.au/story/6763183/council-wants-help-planting-millions-of-trees/>
- Fairfield Rural lands, Interactive map 2019
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=04cda41ccb53409a80c22ddb1317245>

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