

## Additional measures of success

In addition to the measures of success listed in this Strategic Plan, Living Links contributes to and will look to incorporate measures and targets from other key strategies into the monitoring of strategic goals. The key strategies that the Living Links partnership support include:

- [Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy 2021 – 2027, Melbourne Water](#)
- [Port Phillip and Western Port Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan 2024 – 2028, Melbourne Water](#)
- [Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018, Melbourne Water](#)
- [Co-Designed Catchment Program – Dandenong Creek Region 2018](#)
- [Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, DEECA](#)
- [Living Links: Mapping The Gaps, 2020, RMIT and Office](#)
- [Melbourne Biodiversity Network Strategic Plan, 2024, Office & Melbourne University](#)
- [Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan 2024-28](#)

Table 1 outlines key opportunities to be explored under the current Plan, aligned with aspirational measures identified by Living Links members. A central focus is leveraging existing metrics tracked by other organisations to enhance understanding of Living Links' broader benefits and support continuous improvement in project delivery. Collaboration with partners and research institutions will be important to identify additional data sources for future monitoring and reporting.

A key factor in establishing the applicability of these measures to the monitoring of Living Links outcomes will be whether data tracked by other organisations is spatially mapped and can be assessed against mapped Living Links corridors.

It should be noted that the nine Local Areas identified in the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy do not directly align with the Living Links area boundary.



**Table 1:** Additional measures and targets as identified in other regional strategies and plans and their applicability to Living Links

| Strategy                                                             | Measure                                                        | Target                                                                                                                                     | Responsibility            | Potential Data sources                                                                 | Relevant aspirational Living Links measures*                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Management Strategy | 2.1 Vegetation Extent & 2.2 Vegetation Quality along waterways | Achieve an average score of at least MODERATE for Vegetation extent and quality along waterways across the Dandenong catchment             | Melbourne Water           | Healthy Waterways Strategy data<br><a href="#">Visualising Victoria's biodiversity</a> | Stepped improvements in waterway health as a measure for improved outcomes along corridors |
|                                                                      | 2.3 Fish in waterways                                          | Achieve an average score for fish in waterways of MODERATE across the Dandenong catchment                                                  | Melbourne Water           | Healthy Waterways Strategy data<br><a href="#">Visualising Victoria's biodiversity</a> | Stepped improvements in waterway health as a measure for improved outcomes along corridors |
|                                                                      | 2.4 Waterway amenity                                           | Achieve an average score for waterway amenity of VERY HIGH for the Dandenong catchment.                                                    | DEECA and Melbourne Water | methods for monitoring waterway amenity will be further developed                      | Stepped improvements in waterway health as a measure for improved outcomes along corridors |
|                                                                      | 5.2 Permanent protection                                       | At least 8,250 hectares of new permanently protected vegetation areas established on private land in this region between 2017 and 2050 (an | Trust for Nature          | TBC                                                                                    | Inclusion of measure for increased biodiversity in the private realm                       |

| Strategy | Measure                   | Target                                                                                                                                                                                 | Responsibility                   | Potential Data sources                                                                                   | Relevant aspirational Living Links measures*                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |                           | average of at least 250 hectares per year – whole catchment).                                                                                                                          |                                  |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                      |
|          | 5.3 Revegetation          | At least 33,000 hectares of revegetation established in priority areas for habitat connectivity in this region between 2017 and 2050 (an average of at least 1,000 hectares per year). | DEECA, Councils, Melbourne Water | Various including survey data and other data sets<br><a href="#">Visualising Victoria's biodiversity</a> | May assist in improving existing targets in Strategic Plan around revegetation                       |
|          | 5.4 New biolinks          | Significant, sustained revegetation programs have been undertaken from 2021 to 2050 and have created numerous major biolinks in priority locations across the region.                  | DEECA, Councils, Melbourne Water | Various including survey data and other data sets                                                        | Desire for greater connectivity between actions and priority corridors including additional measures |
|          | 5.5 Pest and weed control | Sustained pest herbivore control maintained for at least 120,000 hectares in priority areas, and sustained weed control maintained for at least 40,000                                 | DEECA, Councils, Melbourne Water | Various including survey data and other data sets                                                        | May assist in improving existing targets in Strategic Plan around weed control                       |

| Strategy | Measure                         | Target                                                                                                                        | Responsibility                   | Potential Data sources                                                                                                                                                                                           | Relevant aspirational Living Links measures*                                                                                             |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |                                 | hectares in priority areas of this region through to 2050.                                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                          |
|          | 5.6 Threatened vegetation       | Threatened native vegetation and ecological communities are retained and are self-sustainable, secure, healthy and resilient. | DEECA                            | Data requested from DEECA as part of its implementation and monitoring of Biodiversity 2037<br><br><a href="#">Visualising Victoria's biodiversity</a>                                                           | Development of a target for protection and creation of habitat                                                                           |
|          | 6.1 Diversity of native animals | The diversity of native animal species that inhabit the region in 2021 are retained in 2050                                   | DEECA, Councils, Melbourne Water | <a href="#">NatureKit layers and datasets</a> including Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and other databanks of native animal records, Council monitoring<br><br><a href="#">Visualising Victoria's biodiversity</a> | 'feel good' data such as increase of species distribution of regional threatened species to drill the message home at a grassroots level |
|          | 6.2 Threatened animals          | Wild populations of all threatened native animal species in the region are                                                    | DEECA                            | <a href="#">Visualising Victoria's biodiversity</a>                                                                                                                                                              | 'feel good' data such as increase of species distribution of regional                                                                    |

| Strategy                   | Measure                                                                                                                                                  | Target                                                                                                                                                                   | Responsibility                                                       | Potential Data sources          | Relevant aspirational Living Links measures*                       |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                            |                                                                                                                                                          | retained and their populations are self-sustainable, secure, healthy and resilient.                                                                                      |                                                                      |                                 | threatened species to drill the message home at a grassroots level |
|                            | 13.3 Indigenous representation in NRM                                                                                                                    | Traditional Owners are well represented in relevant organisational Boards. All major nrm forums and planning processes in this region include Indigenous representation. | Registered Aboriginal Parties, Government organisations and Councils | Targeted survey data            | Request for self-determined Traditional Owner goals and measures   |
| Healthy Waterways Strategy | RPO-1: Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians have an increased expertise in contemporary land and waterway management, waterway science and lore. | Long term goals                                                                                                                                                          | Melbourne Water, Traditional Owner groups, other partners            | Healthy Waterways Strategy data | Request for Traditional Owner goal and measures                    |
|                            | RPO-3: Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal Victorians are supported by industry partners to influence the agenda for                                 | Long term goals                                                                                                                                                          | Melbourne Water, Traditional Owner groups, other partners            | Healthy Waterways Strategy data | Request for Traditional Owner goal and measures                    |

| Strategy | Measure                                                                                                                    | Target                                                                               | Responsibility  | Potential Data sources          | Relevant aspirational Living Links measures*    |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|          | waterway management by proactively developing communications, resolutions or project scopes and seeking industry partners. |                                                                                      |                 |                                 |                                                 |
|          | Establish buffers                                                                                                          | Establish continuous riparian vegetated buffers.                                     | Melbourne Water | Healthy Waterways Strategy data | Water quality improvement in targeted corridors |
|          | Maintain/protect quality                                                                                                   | Maintain and protect existing vegetation along priority reaches.                     | Melbourne Water | Healthy Waterways Strategy data | Water quality improvement in targeted corridors |
|          | Maintain for recreational use                                                                                              | Maintain recreational water quality in key recreation areas.                         | Melbourne Water | Healthy Waterways Strategy data | Water quality improvement in targeted corridors |
|          | Mitigate threats to physical form                                                                                          | Investigate and mitigate threats of erosion along waterways.                         | Melbourne Water | Healthy Waterways Strategy data | Habitat improvement in targeted corridors       |
|          | Improve fish passage                                                                                                       | Provide connectivity for fish along major waterways through the removal of barriers. | Melbourne Water | Healthy Waterways Strategy data | Habitat improvement in targeted corridors       |

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| Strategy          | Measure                                         | Target                                                                                                                                                                       | Responsibility                           | Potential Data sources                                                                       | Relevant aspirational Living Links measures*    |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                   | Protect specific habitat                        | Conserve priority species and communities through habitat protection, research and monitoring.                                                                               | Melbourne Water                          | Healthy Waterways Strategy data                                                              | Habitat improvement in targeted corridors       |
|                   | Macroinvertebrate trend monitoring              | Applied broadly as waterway health measure                                                                                                                                   | Melbourne Water, community organisations | WaterWatch data                                                                              | Water quality improvement in targeted waterways |
| Biodiversity 2037 | GOAL: Victorians value nature                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Victorians connecting with nature.</li> <li>Five million Victorians acting to protect the natural environment.</li> </ul>         | DEECA                                    | <a href="#">NatureKit layers and datasets</a><br><br>Baseline and datasets being established | Biodiversity outcomes in corridors              |
|                   | GOAL: Victoria's natural environment is healthy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We achieve a net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments</li> </ul> | DEECA                                    | <a href="#">NatureKit layers and datasets</a><br><br>Baseline and datasets being established | Biodiversity outcomes in corridors              |

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| Strategy                               | Measure                                                   | Target                                                                                                                                                                           | Responsibility                                     | Potential Data sources    | Relevant aspirational Living Links measures*                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                        | Working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians | Priority 14. Engage with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to include Aboriginal values and traditional ecological knowledge in biodiversity planning and management. | DEECA                                              | All Living Links Partners | supporting Traditional Owners' self-determined goals in natural resource management and respecting their desired level of involvement in Living Links activities. |
| Public health and wellbeing strategies | User experience of nature                                 | Not identified                                                                                                                                                                   | State Government, Parks Victoria, Local Government | Not identified            | Data that identifies trail users                                                                                                                                  |

\* Aspirational Living Links measures identified by Living Links members in Workshop 1