

Rivers to Ranges Project



Vision

In the Rivers to Ranges project area natural systems are healthy, resilient, connected and provide a place for people to experience and relate to the natural environment

The project

The *Rivers to Ranges* project aims to protect nature on public land from weed invasion. The project works on a connected system of public land between the Yarra River and the Kinglake Ranges that supports an abundant and unique range of plants, animals and natural communities.

The project seeks to build cross-agency relationships and find opportunities to coordinate works. By doing so it improves outcomes with limited resources. It also allows leveraging continued funding by developing projects that build on the success of other works. Ultimately it will lead to lasting improvement in the natural environments of the region.

Rivers to Ranges is a four year \$500,000 project funded through the Victorian Government's Peri-urban Weed Management Partnerships with co-contributions from Councils and other agencies. The project will run between July 2016 and June 2020.

The Network

The government agencies involved in the project have formed an ongoing partnership aiming to protect biodiversity within the corridor. This group is called the *Rivers to Ranges Network*.

The Network includes representatives from:

- Nillumbik Shire Council (lead agency)
- Department of Land Water and Planning
- City of Whittlesea
- Manningham Council
- Parks Victoria
- Melbourne Water
- Trust for Nature

Key Achievements

- Directly funded 1,800ha of environmental weed control since June 2016
- Significantly reduced weed cover within targeted areas
- Developed a strategic framework for reducing common and emerging weed threats across the region, linking weed control goals with biodiversity improvements
- Developed strong and ongoing relationships between the project partners

As State and Federal Governments move towards supporting biodiversity projects that are longer-term, landscape-scale and collaborative, this project provides a successful model and useful and transferable tools.

Project Area

Rivers to Ranges operates to the north of Melbourne across 41,514 hectares including areas of Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Manningham. It includes Kinglake National Park, the *Warrandyte to Kinglake Habitat Corridor*, Plenty Gorge and the Middle Yarra region.

This area forms a vital bushland link between the Kinglake Ranges and the Yarra River Valley. This corridor contains some of the most intact and connected natural habitat remaining in the Greater Melbourne area. It supports a unique diversity of habitat types, plants and animals, including Brush-tailed Phascogale, Common Dunnart, Powerful Owl, Galaxias and orchids.

With 70% native cover, the vegetation includes dry forest intersected by riparian and creekline habitats, transitioning to wet or damp forest in the north and woodlands and grasslands to the west.

The *Rivers to Ranges* project (2016 onwards) is an expansion of the *Warrandyte to Kinglake Habitat Corridor Project* (2010 – 2016).

For more information contact:

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