CARING FOR THE FITZ–STIRLING PRIORITY PLACE

A PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION



Australian Government

SOUTHCOAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Spinebill Consulting

Our Common Place

Australian Government

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Spinebill Consulting
Fostering resilience for people & nature

Our Common Place

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This Plan sets out a long-term vision for looking after the natural and cultural values of the Fitz–Stirling Priority Place (hereafter referred to as the Priority Place).

The Plan identifies key pressures affecting the Priority Place and outlines shared stewardship values, long-term outcomes and collaborative strategies to guide ongoing care and coordinated action.

The Plan brings together knowledge, experience and ongoing work across a large landscape. It reflects the involvement of Traditional Owners, landholders, community groups, natural resource management organisations, researchers, government agencies and others with responsibilities, knowledge or relationships connected to the Priority Place.

In this way, the Plan guides future priorities, supports investment in natural resource management, and strengthens coordination of work already underway. It does not prescribe every action or management response needed across the Priority Place. Instead, it provides a shared reference point for connecting local work to a broader landscape direction, informed by cultural knowledge, scientific evidence and practical experience.

The Plan is designed to be used, revisited and built on as knowledge grows, relationships continue to develop, and new challenges and opportunities emerge.

PRIORITY PLACE CONTEXT

The Australian Government established Priority Places through the 2022–2032 Threatened Species Action Plan to focus coordinated conservation and recovery efforts in nationally significant landscapes.

The Fitz–Stirling Priority Place is one of 20 nationally recognised Priority Places and one of three in Western Australia.

Priority Place designation recognises landscapes where sustained collaboration can help protect threatened species and ecological communities while strengthening broader landscape resilience.

The Priority Place is recognised for its ecological and cultural significance and the long history of conservation and restoration work in the region. It supports exceptional biodiversity, nationally significant threatened species and ecological communities, and partnerships that provide a strong foundation for future work.

A Priority Place should be understood as a broad, landscape-scale planning area rather than a fixed management boundary. It spans multiple tenures and encompasses conservation, productive, cultural and community landscapes.

This reflects the interconnected nature of the landscape. Its future depends on coordinated effort across land tenures, communities, knowledge systems, and cultural responsibilities.

The designation creates an opportunity to strengthen the foundations for long-term conservation, restoration and Caring for Country while building on established knowledge, relationships and on-ground efforts.

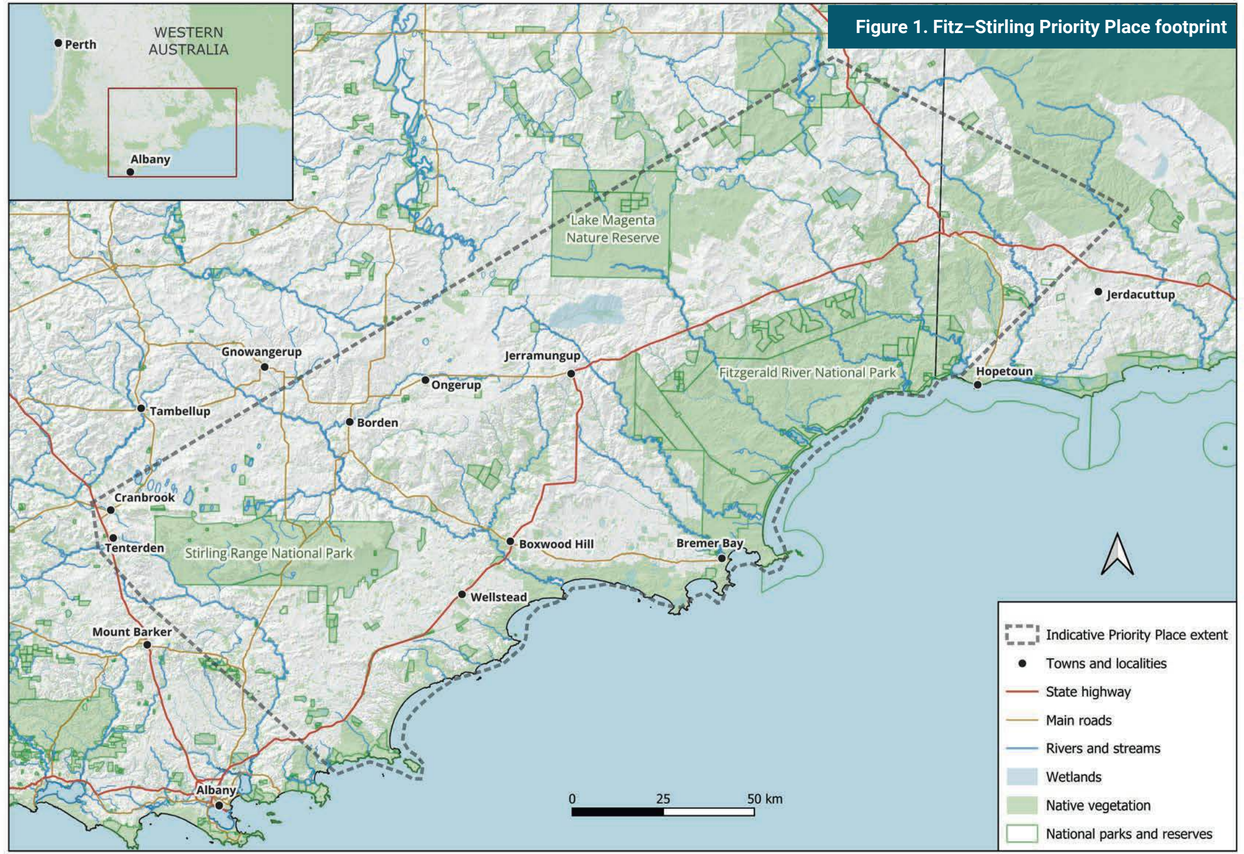


Figure 1. Fitz–Stirling Priority Place footprint

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Plan was developed through a staged process that combined a desktop review of existing ecological, cultural, historical and strategic planning information with engagement involving Elders, stakeholders and partners across the Priority Place.

A total of three stakeholder workshops and four Elder engagement sessions were held during the development of the Plan, with 39 participants from 20 organisations.

DESKTOP REVIEW

The review established an initial evidence base and a common starting point for planning and discussion, but did not, on its own, determine the Plan's direction. The review compiled written information on the landscape's ecological systems, cultural context, planning history, pressures and stewardship challenges, and identified themes across the evidence base.

The material reviewed comprised conservation and reserve planning documents, recovery plans, threatened species information, ecological assessments, and technical reports. It also included regional strategies, Conservation Action Planning, Healthy Country Plan materials, and summaries of earlier Priority Place planning consultations. A list of key documents reviewed can be found in Appendix A.

The written record could not fully capture cultural knowledge or the lived experience of Country. Much of this knowledge is held and shared through relationships and on-Country practice. The Plan therefore needed to be informed by cultural guidance as well as by documented evidence.

ELDER ENGAGEMENT

Dedicated Elder engagement was undertaken to address the limitations of the written record and to ensure the Plan was culturally guided from the outset. It provided a separate yet integrated process, allowing Elders to shape the Plan before and during broader stakeholder engagement.

Before the formal Elder workshops, Aboriginal community pre-engagement was conducted to introduce the project and support appropriate cultural representation. This helped identify who should be involved, raise awareness of the project, and ensure the engagement was culturally grounded from the outset.

Early engagement helped establish the cultural foundations and expectations for the Plan prior to broader stakeholder engagement. It clarified that the planning process needed to enable cultural authority and develop a Plan that offers practical value for Aboriginal people responsible for caring for Country.



Cultural landscape mapping with Elders

Cultural landscape mapping was subsequently used to identify cultural values and connections across the Priority Place at the landscape scale. This helped identify cultural connections and significance that shaped the framing of the Plan.

Later engagement gave Elders the chance to assess if the emerging Plan, including its vision, values, and broader framework, reflected the cultural guidance provided throughout the process. Cultural knowledge was incorporated only with permission and in appropriate ways.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

The initial stakeholder workshop clarified the purpose of the Plan and tested the compiled evidence base against participants' experiences across the Priority Place. Discussions focused on identifying gaps, areas needing refinement, and aspects that would make the Plan useful in practice. This helped clarify the ecological and system pressures, informed the Plan's theory of change and collaborative strategies, and guided the approach to subsequent engagement.

The second stakeholder workshop shifted from pressures and challenges to examining future landscape conditions, collaborative pathways and signs of progress. Participants considered what long-term success could look like across the landscape and discussed ways to support and recognise progress over time.

The material from the second workshop was synthesised into a draft framework of outcomes, strategies, and measures of progress. The third stakeholder workshop then reviewed and refined this draft by assessing if it aligned with the direction emerging from the process. Participants tested the clarity and practicality of the strategies, measures of progress, and overall Plan direction.

This staged approach ensured that the Plan's vision, values, outcomes, strategies, delivery pathways, and measures of progress were grounded in the realities of working across a connected, multi-tenure landscape.



Stakeholder workshop planning session

THE FITZ–STIRLING PRIORITY PLACE

The Priority Place spans more than 2 million hectares across the south coast and inland south-west of Western Australia. It extends from the Stirling Range National Park and surrounding inland areas eastward through the Fitzgerald River National Park and Ravensthorpe Range, and includes connected coastal landscapes along the south coast (Figure 1). The Priority Place lies largely within the Fitzgerald subregion of the Esperance Plains bioregion, a nationally recognised bioregional unit characterised by high biodiversity and endemism.

The Priority Place includes major conservation areas, productive land, waterways, wetlands, remnant vegetation and townships. These features are interconnected, forming a cultural, ecological and working landscape shaped by long histories of care, land use, conservation and change.

This area remains a lived and working landscape. Across private and public land, Traditional Owners, farmers, landholders, conservation practitioners and communities continue to shape how the landscape is understood, managed, restored and cared for today.



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The Fitz–Stirling landscape is shaped by long-standing Noongar connection to Country and enduring relationships between people and place. Across this landscape, Country holds deep cultural meaning, with knowledge, identity and connection passed down through generations.

The landscape's ecological character has also been shaped over thousands of years by ancient landscapes, climatic gradients and highly weathered, infertile soils. These conditions have supported diverse vegetation systems and distinctive aquatic, granite and coastal environments.

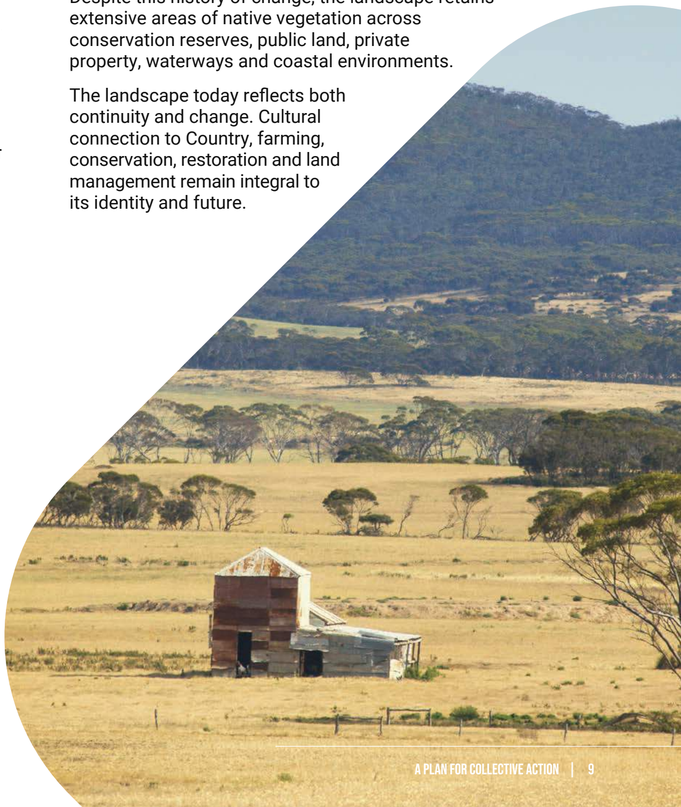
The landscape lies at the transition between wetter south-west environments and drier inland systems. This transition creates strong variation in vegetation, habitats and ecological conditions. It also contributes to the diversity of species and communities found across the Priority Place.

Like much of the south-west of Western Australia, the Priority Place has undergone substantial environmental change since European settlement. Extensive agricultural clearing transformed large parts of the landscape, particularly across valley floors and on more fertile soils. Many of these cleared areas now form part of a working rural landscape, including broadacre cropping, grazing and mixed farming. This history of clearing has contributed to the fragmentation of native vegetation, changes to hydrology and pressure on ecological processes.

These changes also reshaped relationships between people and Country. They continue to influence how the landscape is understood, managed, restored and cared for today.

Despite this history of change, the landscape retains extensive areas of native vegetation across conservation reserves, public land, private property, waterways and coastal environments.

The landscape today reflects both continuity and change. Cultural connection to Country, farming, conservation, restoration and land management remain integral to its identity and future.





CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The Fitz–Stirling landscape is a living cultural landscape. Its significance extends beyond individual sites or isolated places. Cultural meaning is carried through relationships among landforms, waterways, coastal places, stories, and movement across Country. These relationships endure through lived experience and time spent on Country. They also carry memory and responsibility for future care.

Across this landscape, coastal systems, rivers and mountains form part of a connected cultural landscape. So do pathways, camps, gathering places and areas of care. Movement between inland, riverine, mountain and coastal areas remains important to cultural knowledge, connection and responsibility for Country.

Waterways and coastal systems are central to this landscape. Rivers connect inland and coastal areas, provide movement corridors and access to resources, and link different parts of Country. Coastal inlets and related places are also important within broader patterns of seasonal movement, gathering and use.

The Stirling Range holds deep cultural and spiritual significance within the Fitz–Stirling landscape. Its peaks, valleys and surrounding places are connected to cultural knowledge, stories and family histories held across generations.

Damage to Country is also felt as cultural harm. Fire damage, altered water flows and degraded places can affect cultural practice and people's ability to care for Country. Reduced access can also interrupt knowledge transfer and weaken people's ability to maintain relationships with important places. Healing Country, therefore, involves both ecological restoration and the continuation of cultural responsibility, cultural learning and presence on Country.

"Connection to Country is more than just seeing a hill. It's feeling, and it's what's in your heart."

– Elder quote

KOI-KUKENARUP MOORT WIRRN NYITTING

THE BLUE HILLS FAMILY SPIRIT DREAMING

These words express the enduring relationships between people, ancestors and Country across this landscape. They were offered by Elders during the development of the Plan as a way of expressing the cultural meaning and identity of this part of Country.

The name brings together Noongar place names connected to the Stirling Range (Koi Kyenunu-ruff) and the Fitzgerald River landscape (Kukenarup), acknowledging the two national parks that anchor the Plan and the cultural connections that extend across them and the broader Priority Place landscape.

It recognises the authority of Elders in shaping how this landscape is understood and represented.

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES

The Priority Place encompasses conservation landscapes of national and international significance. Stirling Range National Park and Fitzgerald River National Park are the two major conservation anchors within the Priority Place. They protect extensive tracts of native vegetation, support exceptional biodiversity and endemism, and underpin long-standing conservation and natural resource management efforts.

These anchors are part of a broader conservation network that includes other national parks, nature reserves and protected areas. Porongurup National Park is located on the western edge of this network, contributing unique granite landscapes, wetter refugial habitats and high plant diversity near the Stirling Range. Along the south coast, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Waychinicup National Park expand the network by protecting coastal, wetland and heathland environments. To the east, Lake Magenta Nature Reserve and the Ravensthorpe Range add important habitat diversity and conservation value within the eastern section of the Priority Place.

The area between Stirling Range National Park and Fitzgerald River National Park is an important conservation linkage. Corackerup Nature Reserve and Peniup Proposed Nature Reserve, together with surrounding areas of remnant and restored vegetation, provide important habitat nodes between the two national parks. Private conservation areas also form part of this linkage, including reserves managed by Bush Heritage Australia and Greening Australia, as well as other covenants and private conservation reserves. Together, these areas protect and restore more than 10,000 hectares of habitat where previous clearing fragmented native vegetation.

The conservation importance of the Priority Place extends beyond formal reserves. Native vegetation on farms, road reserves and other managed lands also provides habitat and enhances ecological connectivity across the landscape. Restoration and revegetation efforts led by conservation groups and landholders have further expanded this work beyond reserve boundaries.

River systems add another layer of connection across the landscape. The Pallinup and Fitzgerald Rivers, among others, connect inland and coastal areas, support riparian and wetland habitats, and provide pathways through an otherwise fragmented landscape.



ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS, SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES

The Priority Place lies within the Southwest Australia Biodiversity Hotspot, one of the world's most biologically diverse and ecologically distinctive regions. The landscape supports a remarkable concentration of endemic plants, threatened species and ecological communities, many of which occur nowhere else.

This broader landscape variation is characterised by a diverse array of ecological systems, habitats, species and communities. Proteaceous kwongkan shrublands and mallee–heath mosaics are defining ecological systems within the Priority Place. Kwongkan shrublands are species-rich shrublands dominated by plants from the Proteaceae family and are recognised for exceptional plant diversity and endemism. Mallee–heath mosaics form complex patchworks of heath shrublands and multi-stemmed mallee eucalypts.

In the Stirling Range, montane heath and thicket communities sustain higher-elevation species and assemblages, adding further ecological distinctiveness to the Priority Place.

Alongside these systems, other woodland, wetland, riparian, granite and coastal habitats also contribute to the diversity of the Priority Place. Together, these systems create the landscape heterogeneity associated with high biodiversity.

Many vegetation systems have evolved in association with particular fire patterns and recovery intervals over long timeframes. Fire is therefore a key process shaping regeneration, habitat structure and ecological succession.

Proteaceous kwongkan shrublands include many obligate-seeding species that need sufficient time between fire events to mature and replenish seedbanks. For these systems, fire timing, frequency and interval can strongly influence vegetation recovery and condition. Variation in vegetation age, structure and fire history also contributes to the diversity of habitats and ecological conditions across the landscape.

Larger intact areas and connected habitat systems provide important refuges for plants and animals. The Priority Place supports a high diversity of birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs and invertebrates adapted to its ecological gradients and habitat types.

The Fitz–Stirling Priority Place supports highly diverse native biodiversity, with 6,774 recorded taxa, including 4,087 plants, 2,280 animals and 394 fungi. This biodiversity includes numerous threatened taxa and ecological communities (Figure 2). Among the recorded taxa are three plants and ten animals identified as priority species under the Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032. These species and ecological communities contribute to the landscape's significance, particularly where they are associated with high endemism, ecological sensitivity and specialised habitats.

The ecological significance of the Priority Place therefore lies not only in individual species and communities, but in the systems, habitats and processes that support them. Maintaining these systems is central to resilience and long-term recovery across the Priority Place.

Figure 2.

THREATENED BIODIVERSITY SUMMARY FOR THE FITZ–STIRLING PRIORITY PLACE

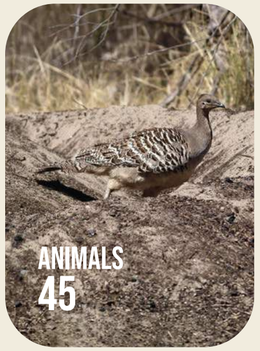
**Note: Taxa counts in the text and figure are based on a DBCA Dandjoo Bio species list for the Fitz–Stirling Priority Place search area, cleaned to remove irrelevant records. Threatened taxa are those listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under Western Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Threatened ecological communities are nationally listed.*



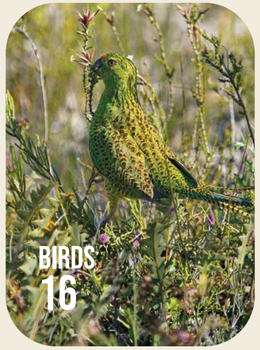
Gilbert's Potoroo



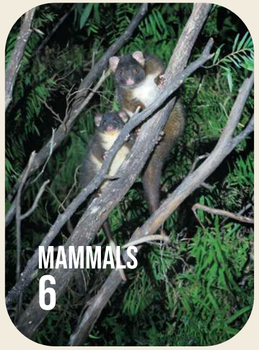
Stirling Range Dryandra



Malleefowl



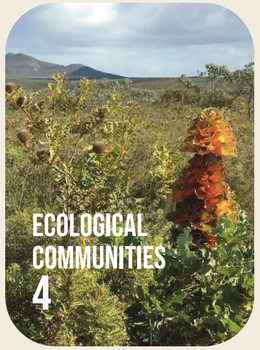
Western Ground Parrot



Western Ringtail Possum



Sarah's Peacock Spider



Kwongkan TEC

LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP

The Fitz–Stirling landscape has been cared for by Noongar people for more than 60,000 years. Cultural knowledge, responsibility and connection to Country continue across generations and remain central to how the landscape is understood, managed and cared for today.

Care for Country extends beyond individual places or species. It involves looking after the relationships among land, waterways, fire, plants, animals, stories, and future generations.

In recent decades, this long history of care has been accompanied by extensive conservation, restoration, land management, and natural resource management activities across the region.

Since the early 2000s, planning and conservation activities have increasingly recognised the importance of landscape-scale connectivity, cross-tenure collaboration and ecological restoration. The Fitz–Stirling corridor between Stirling Range National Park and Fitzgerald River National Park became one of the early focal areas for Gondwana Link, a long-term landscape restoration initiative focused on reconnecting ecological systems across south-western Australia.

Subsequent restoration programs, planning initiatives and regional strategies have further strengthened recognition of the Priority Place as a connected, multi-tenure landscape. Planning and stewardship activities have also increasingly recognised the importance of Aboriginal organisations, cultural knowledge and on-Country approaches in caring for and restoring the landscape. The Noongar Land Estate, established through the South West Native Title Settlement, provides further opportunities for Noongar people and organisations to contribute to land management and cultural governance across the region.

Parts of the Priority Place also overlap with the Fitzgerald Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO biosphere reserve that recognises the relationship between conservation, sustainable land use, research and community stewardship. This reflects a long-standing history of working across conservation and productive landscapes in the broader region.

The future of the Priority Place will depend not only on work in reserves and conservation areas, but also on everyday stewardship across the broader landscape. Traditional Owners, community groups, governments and natural resource management partners all need to continue this work. Future work will need to keep local action connected across tenures, communities and responsibilities, so that efforts in different parts of the landscape contribute to a shared direction.

Farmers and landholders are central to this future. Many decisions that influence landscape health and resilience are made on farms and other privately managed land, from protecting remnant vegetation and restoring degraded areas to managing soil, water and invasive species.

This long history of care and action provides an important foundation for the Priority Place Plan. It shows that future work will need to build on existing relationships and experience while strengthening coordination across the landscape.

"Conservation values on private land are a public good. The responsibility for looking after them should not sit with private landowners alone."

– Stakeholder quote

KEY LANDSCAPE PRESSURES

The Priority Place faces a range of pressures that continue to shape ecological systems, relationships to Country, and long-term stewardship. Many of these pressures have evolved through changes in land use, environmental change, and broader social and institutional conditions.

The pressures affecting the Priority Place can be broadly categorised as ecological and system pressures. Ecological pressures affect the condition, function and resilience of the landscape. System pressures affect the collective capacity to respond to those pressures and sustain stewardship.

Both types of pressure are considered here because they affect not only the landscape condition but also the capacity for coordinated care across the Priority Place.



ECOLOGICAL PRESSURES

Across the landscape, interacting ecological pressures continue to shape ecological condition, cultural relationships to Country and long-term ecological change (Figure 3).

Habitat loss, fragmentation, and hydrological alteration continue to degrade landscape condition across the Priority Place. These processes reduce habitat extent and connectivity, making it harder for species to move through the landscape. These effects are more pronounced where native vegetation persists as small, isolated, or poorly connected remnants.

Hydrological alteration has also affected parts of the landscape. Broad-scale clearing of deep-rooted native vegetation has altered groundwater recharge, leading to rising water tables and salinity in some areas. Clearing, altered surface flows, and exposed soils have also contributed to erosion. These changes have affected waterway and wetland conditions through salinity, sedimentation, altered flows, and declining riparian conditions.

Altered fire regimes include changes in fire frequency, intensity, timing, and scale. These changes can affect vegetation structure, succession, regeneration, and habitat condition across many vegetation systems. Repeated fires or short fire intervals can limit the capacity of some fire-sensitive or obligate-seeding vegetation communities, including parts of the kwongkan shrublands, to mature, replenish seed banks, and recover.

Climate change is increasingly affecting vegetation communities and ecological processes in the landscape. Reduced rainfall, rising temperatures, drought, and extreme weather events are influencing vegetation condition, recovery after disturbance, and the resilience of sensitive systems.

Figure 3. Consolidated ecological pressures affecting the Priority Place

- HABITAT LOSS AND FRAGMENTATION
- HYDROLOGICAL ALTERATION
- ALTERED FIRE REGIMES
- CLIMATE CHANGE
- PREDATION BY INTRODUCED PREDATORS, INCLUDING FERAL CATS AND FOXES
- GRAZING PRESSURE FROM RABBITS AND OTHER HERBIVORES
- INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES
- PHYTOPHTHORA DIEBACK, DISEASE AND PATHOGENS

Introduced predators, including feral cats and foxes, prey on native fauna such as mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. This can affect species abundance, distribution and persistence. Rabbits and other herbivores exert pressure on vegetation structure, regeneration and soil condition. These impacts are particularly important in recovering or degraded systems, where grazing pressure can limit natural recovery.

Invasive plant species can alter species assemblages, habitat structure and resource availability for fauna, particularly in disturbed or degraded areas. They can also reduce the abundance or distribution of native plant species. Phytophthora dieback remains a major threat to susceptible vegetation communities, particularly disease-sensitive shrubland communities, including kwongkan. Other established or emerging diseases, including chytrid fungus, toxoplasmosis and avian influenza, may also affect susceptible fauna and require monitoring or targeted responses where risks arise.

These ecological pressures rarely operate in isolation. Habitat fragmentation can increase native fauna's exposure to predation, especially where vegetation cover and refuge habitat are reduced by disturbance or fire. Grazing pressure can further limit regeneration and habitat recovery within already fragmented or degraded systems. This can reduce vegetation structure and increase vulnerability to erosion, weed invasion, and ecological decline.

Pressures can also reinforce one another. Altered fire regimes, invasive plants, climate change, and hydrological alteration can interact to affect vegetation condition and recovery. Invasive plants, drought, and changes in vegetation condition can alter fuel structure and influence fire behaviour. Reduced rainfall, rising temperatures, and altered hydrology

can further limit the capacity for recovery. Repeated disturbance adds to this pressure, particularly for sensitive vegetation communities and refuge habitats.

These combined pressures and their interactions also affect cultural relationships with Country. Changes to fire, waterways, native species, vegetation, and important places affect more than ecological condition. They can change how people access, use, and care for Country. They can also disrupt cultural practices, stories, memories, and the passing on of knowledge across generations. Where Country is damaged or harder to care for, the effects are not only ecological; they are also felt through cultural responsibility, connection, and continuity.

In this way, ecological pressures continue to shape landscape condition, cultural relationships to Country, and the capacity of ecological systems to recover and adapt over time.



SYSTEM PRESSURES

Stewardship across the Priority Place is also shaped by interacting system pressures. These broader conditions influence how people, organisations and communities work collectively (Figure 4). They affect whether knowledge can be shared and relationships maintained. They also influence whether responsibilities are aligned, decisions are well-informed and long-term stewardship can be sustained.

The Priority Place spans multiple land tenures, communities, organisations and management responsibilities. Coordination and alignment can be challenging when land managers, organisations and programs operate under different priorities, timeframes and decision-making systems.

Constraints on operational capacity and continuity can limit long-term stewardship. Short-term funding cycles, workforce turnover, and shifting program priorities can disrupt sustained effort, relationship-building, and adaptive management. These challenges are especially significant where ecological and cultural outcomes depend on work continuing over long timeframes.

Knowledge, monitoring, and learning systems are not always well-connected or consistently integrated. Monitoring approaches and reporting systems are often developed for different organisational or program needs. This can make it harder to synthesise information, share learning and understand landscape change across programs and land tenures. It can also limit visibility of cumulative change and reduce opportunities for coordinated learning and adaptive response.

Cultural governance, cultural authority, and ongoing Noongar leadership are central to long-term stewardship across the Priority Place. However, access, continuity of practice, and participation in decision-making are not consistently enabled. This can affect the extent to which cultural knowledge and leadership are expressed and sustained within stewardship activities.

These conditions are not presented as shortcomings of individual organisations or partners. They are broader system pressures that influence the extent to which long-term stewardship is supported and sustained.

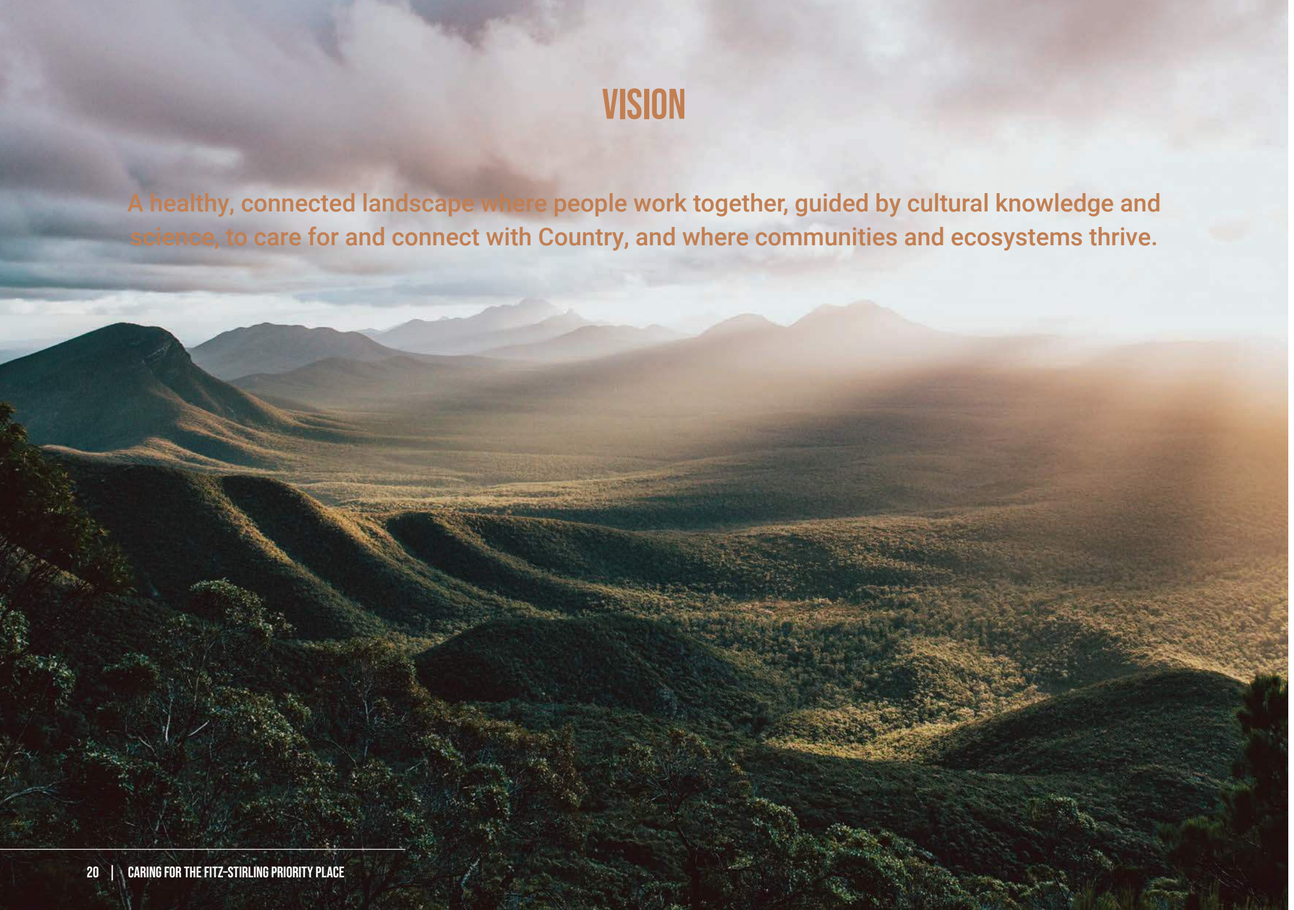
System pressures influence the capacity of organisations, communities, Traditional Owners and land managers to respond consistently to ecological pressures. When relationships, knowledge and effort are fragmented, long-term collective response becomes more difficult. Inconsistent recognition of cultural governance and cultural authority can also limit shared stewardship.

Ecological and system pressures are closely connected. Ecological pressures affect the condition and resilience of the landscape, while system pressures affect the capacity to respond with continuity, coordination and care. Responding to these pressures requires sustained collaboration, shared responsibility and collective commitment across the Priority Place.

Figure 4. Consolidated system pressures affecting the Priority Place

- COORDINATION AND ALIGNMENT ACROSS ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND TENURES
- CONSTRAINTS ON OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND CONTINUITY
- FRAGMENTED KNOWLEDGE, MONITORING AND LEARNING SYSTEMS
- CULTURAL GOVERNANCE AND NOONGAR LEADERSHIP ARE NOT CONSISTENTLY ENABLED





VISION

A healthy, connected landscape where people work together, guided by cultural knowledge and science, to care for and connect with Country, and where communities and ecosystems thrive.

SHARED STEWARDSHIP VALUES

The shared stewardship values describe how people seek to work together in caring for Country and supporting collective action across the Fitz–Stirling landscape.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Acting with transparency, follow-through, and integrity in relationships, commitments, and decision-making over the long term.

CARE

Approaching people, Country, and relationships with attentiveness, healing, compassion, and deep regard.

COMMITMENT

Demonstrating persistence, ongoing participation, collaboration, and sustained effort for Country and community wellbeing.

LEARNING

Supporting shared learning, reflection, adaptation, and knowledge exchange to strengthen stewardship and long-term landscape resilience.

RESPECT

Recognising and valuing diverse relationships, knowledge systems, lived experiences, and connections to Country across the landscape.

LISTENING

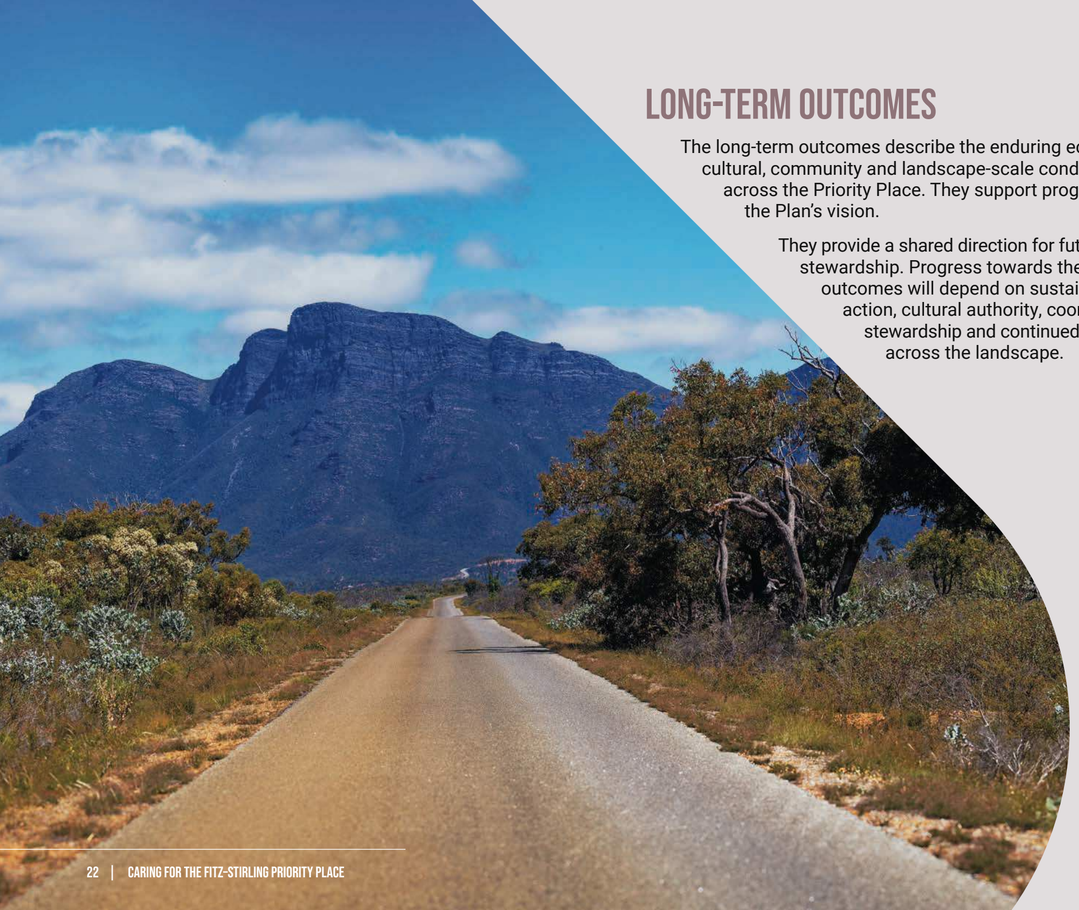
Creating space for genuine dialogue, truth-telling, shared understanding, and openness to different perspectives and experiences.

TRUST

Building long-term relationships grounded in honesty, consistency, reciprocity, and shared commitment to Country and common purpose.

RESPONSIBILITY

Recognising shared obligations to Country, communities, one another, and future generations.



LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The long-term outcomes describe the enduring ecological, cultural, community and landscape-scale conditions sought across the Priority Place. They support progress towards the Plan's vision.

They provide a shared direction for future stewardship. Progress towards these outcomes will depend on sustained practical action, cultural authority, coordinated stewardship and continued learning across the landscape.

OUTCOME 1. CONNECTED AND RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

Habitats and ecological systems are connected across the landscape, so ecological processes function at scale, species can move and recover, and the landscape can adapt and respond to disturbance.

OUTCOME 2. THRIVING NATIVE SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

Native species and ecological communities are abundant, diverse, and persistent across the landscape, with threatened species and ecosystems recovering.

OUTCOME 3. HEALTHY, FUNCTIONING, AND REGENERATING VEGETATION SYSTEMS

Vegetation systems are structurally diverse and regenerating through active stewardship and restoration, with healthy ground, understorey and canopy layers, ongoing recruitment and improved condition across all land tenures.

OUTCOME 4. HEALTHY AND FUNCTIONING WATERWAYS AND HYDROLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Waterways and hydrological systems are in good condition and function as connected ecological and cultural systems across the Priority Place.

OUTCOME 5. ECOLOGICALLY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FIRE REGIMES

Fire regimes support biodiversity, regeneration, cultural responsibility, and resilient ecological systems through culturally and ecologically informed fire practices.

OUTCOME 6. PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES SUPPORTING ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

Productive landscapes sustain agricultural productivity while supporting biodiversity, ecological health, and landscape resilience.

OUTCOME 7. STRONG CULTURAL CONNECTION, AUTHORITY AND WELLBEING

Strong cultural connection to Country, cultural authority, and learning on Country continue across generations and remain central to how the landscape is understood and cared for.

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

Achieving the Plan's ***vision*** and ***long-term outcomes*** will require sustained change across a large and complex landscape. No single group or project can achieve this change alone. It depends on people continuing to work together and carrying forward practical action through their roles and responsibilities.

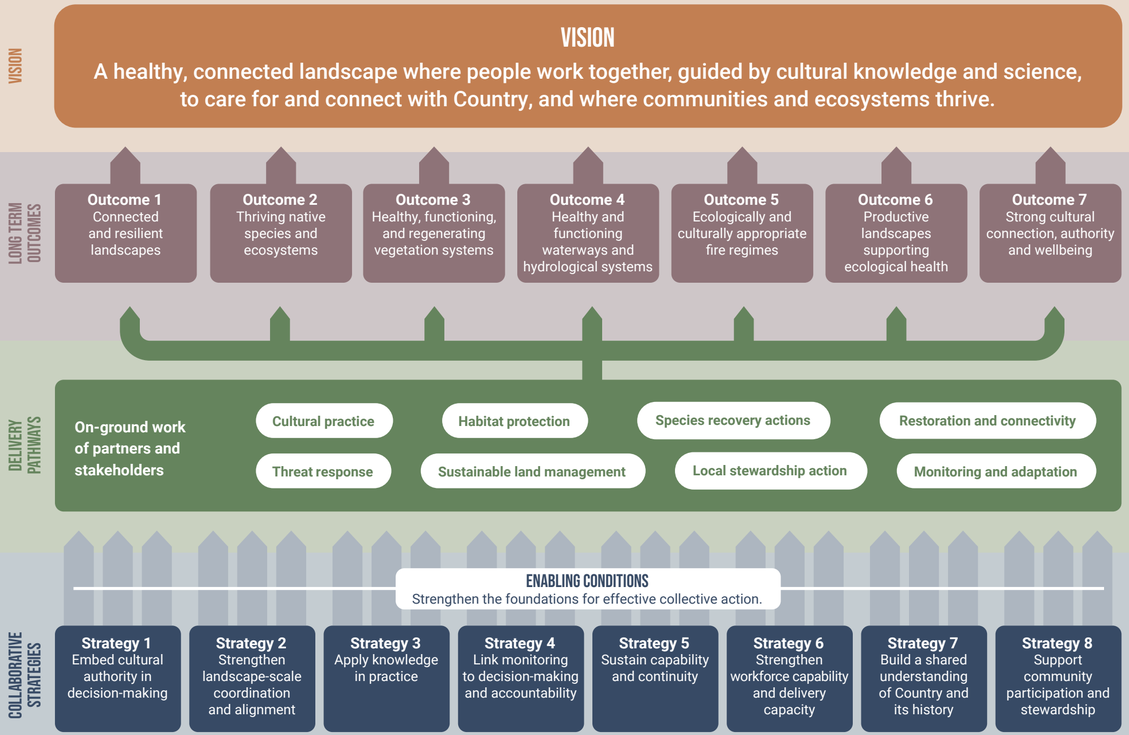
Long-term change is built through stronger collective stewardship. ***Collaborative strategies*** set out the shared ways of working needed for this change. They strengthen the ***enabling conditions*** for effective action, including how people plan, make decisions, use knowledge and sustain effort.

As these enabling conditions improve, partners are better placed to align their work, support future investment and respond to changing conditions. On-ground work is carried out by partners across the Priority Place through existing responsibilities, operations, plans and programs. This work contributes to ***long-term outcomes*** through a set of ***delivery pathways***.

Change builds as stronger relationships, more coordinated action and shared learning make practical work easier to sustain and adapt. Over time, this builds long-term change across the landscape. This theory of change is shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5. Theory of change to achieve the Plan's vision



COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES AND ENABLING CONDITIONS

The collaborative strategies outline the shared ways of working needed to build collective stewardship across the Priority Place. They focus on the relationships, capabilities, knowledge use and coordination needed for collective action.

Each strategy is supported by enabling conditions that describe the medium-term changes expected as the foundations of collective stewardship are strengthened.

The strategies are interconnected. Progress in one area can contribute to progress in others, and many partners and projects may advance several strategies simultaneously.



STRATEGY 1. EMBED CULTURAL AUTHORITY IN DECISION-MAKING

Traditional Owners meaningfully lead and shape planning, stewardship and land management, with recognised authority in decisions relating to priorities, actions and care for Country.

This strategy is about ensuring cultural authority shapes decisions early, before priorities, projects and actions are finalised. It requires ongoing relationships with Traditional Owners, Elders, ranger groups and cultural practitioners, not one-off consultation after planning is already underway. For organisations working across the Priority Place, this means creating clear entry points for cultural leadership across planning, delivery, monitoring and review. It also means recognising that cultural knowledge and cultural responsibility are not add-ons to land management but are central to how stewardship should be understood and practised.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

1.1 Traditional Owners, Elders, ranger groups, and cultural practitioners have recognised and ongoing roles in planning, priority-setting, delivery and review.

1.2 Planning and land management processes include clear entry points for cultural authority to shape decisions before projects and actions are finalised.

1.3 Relationships with Traditional Owners are ongoing, trusted and resourced, supporting meaningful involvement rather than one-off consultation.

STRATEGY 2. STRENGTHEN LANDSCAPE-SCALE COORDINATION AND ALIGNMENT

"Connectivity means helping neighbouring groups work together on restoration at a landscape scale."

– Stakeholder quote

Effort is aligned across tenures, sectors, organisations and communities to support coordinated planning, shared priorities and landscape-scale action.

This strategy focuses on the relationships and coordination needed to connect work across a large, multi-tenure landscape. Different organisations, landholders, community groups, agencies, ranger groups and researchers will continue to have their own roles, responsibilities and priorities. The aim is to help these contributions align with shared priorities and coordinated effort. Regular forums and communities of practice can help partners stay connected, share lessons and build trust. Cross-tenure initiatives can link local work so that restoration, protection, monitoring and stewardship contribute to landscape-scale change. Shared planning and review points can help partners identify priorities, recognise gaps and adjust direction. When coordination is working well, individual projects remain locally grounded while contributing to broader landscape-scale change.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

2.1 Shared priorities and coordinated planning processes guide implementation across organisations, communities and land tenures.

2.2 Cross-tenure projects and stewardship activities are increasingly delivered through shared communication, collaboration and practical alignment.

2.3 Forums, communities of practice and review processes help partners coordinate effort, share lessons and adjust priorities over time.

STRATEGY 3. APPLY KNOWLEDGE IN PRACTICE

"If you care for Country, it'll look after you for all of your life."

– Elder quote

Cultural and scientific knowledge are applied in planning and on-ground work through shared learning, adaptive management and learning on Country.

This strategy explains how different forms of knowledge are brought together and applied in practice. Better stewardship draws on multiple forms of knowledge. Cultural knowledge needs to sit alongside scientific evidence, local experience and practical land management. Elders, Traditional Owners, ranger groups and cultural practitioners can guide how Country is understood, including through language, Noongar seasonal knowledge, cultural burning, stories and learning on Country. Researchers, schools, agencies, landholders and community groups can also contribute evidence, observations and technical skills. This includes work in restoration, monitoring and land management. The aim is not simply to share knowledge, but to ensure it changes how work is designed, delivered, reviewed and improved.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

3.1 Cultural knowledge, scientific evidence and local experience are more consistently brought together through shared learning and collaboration.

3.2 Knowledge generated through learning on Country, research, monitoring and practical experience is more consistently used to guide project design and delivery.

3.3 Stewardship practices increasingly reflect both cultural knowledge and scientific evidence.

STRATEGY 4. LINK MONITORING TO DECISION-MAKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Monitoring and shared learning generate evidence that informs decisions, supports adaptive management, strengthens accountability and improves collective understanding of landscape change over time.

The purpose of this strategy is to make monitoring useful for decision-making, learning and accountability. Monitoring should be linked to the actions being taken and the changes people expect to see, rather than treated as a separate reporting exercise. Scientific indicators, mapping, field observations and long-term datasets can reveal patterns. They can show changes in ecological condition, restoration progress, species movement and the broader landscape. Cultural indicators, seasonal observations, stories and knowledge of Country add meaning and context. They contribute to a deeper understanding of whether Country is healthy. This evidence needs to be documented and reviewed over time so partners can see what is changing, test whether actions are working and identify emerging issues. Sharing evidence appropriately can strengthen accountability, support collective learning and build confidence in future decisions. When monitoring is connected to decision-making, it helps show progress, guide investment, and improve the work being done.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

4.1 Monitoring is more clearly linked to project actions, landscape priorities and adaptive management decisions.

4.2 Cultural and scientific indicators are used together to build a fuller understanding of landscape health and change.

4.3 Evidence from monitoring and review is used more consistently to guide future priorities and investment.

STRATEGY 5. SUSTAIN CAPABILITY AND CONTINUITY

People, partnerships, relationships and resourcing are sustained and strengthened to support long-term stewardship and coordinated delivery across the landscape.

This strategy focuses on the conditions that enable stewardship to continue beyond individual projects, funding rounds, staff changes and short-term commitments. Trusted relationships and stable coordination help partners maintain momentum, even as projects and personnel change. Succession planning and knowledge sharing help ensure that cultural knowledge, local experience and organisational memory are retained. Longer-term investment and aligned resourcing give people and organisations the confidence to plan, retain capacity and continue working towards shared priorities. When these conditions are in place, partners can maintain momentum through changing circumstances rather than repeatedly rebuilding from the ground up.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

5.1 Core relationships, partnerships and stewardship roles are maintained across project and funding cycles.

5.2 Succession planning and knowledge-sharing help retain cultural knowledge, local experience and organisational memory over time.

5.3 Longer-term planning and coordinated investment give partners greater confidence to sustain stewardship work.

STRATEGY 6. STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE CAPABILITY AND DELIVERY CAPACITY

A skilled and supported workforce, including ranger programs, land managers, community practitioners and local organisations, sustains long-term on-ground delivery and learning.

This strategy focuses on the people and skills needed to deliver stewardship work. Training can build the technical skills needed for restoration, monitoring, cultural land management and other on-ground activities. Mentoring and hands-on experience help people apply those skills in real situations, build confidence and learn from others with local, cultural and technical knowledge. Schools, TAFE, universities and research partners can build longer-term pathways into environmental stewardship by connecting learning, research and career development with regional priorities. Local organisations also need the delivery capacity to plan work, manage projects, support staff and maintain relationships with partners and communities. When workforce capability is strong, stewardship work can be delivered by skilled people who understand the landscape, respect cultural knowledge and are connected to local priorities.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

6.1 Ranger teams, local practitioners, land managers and community groups have stronger practical skills and support for on-ground delivery.

6.2 Learning pathways into restoration, monitoring, cultural land management and environmental stewardship are clearer and better supported.

6.3 Local organisations have stronger delivery capacity to plan, manage and implement stewardship projects.

STRATEGY 7. BUILD A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTRY AND ITS HISTORY

"Young people need to be part of carrying this work forward."

– Elder quote

Shared understanding of Country, including its history, cultural significance, ecological values, stories and continuing responsibilities, supports stewardship, relationships and informed decision-making across communities and institutions.

This strategy focuses on how people across the Priority Place deepen their understanding of Country, its history, and their responsibilities within it. Elders, Traditional Owners, ranger groups and cultural practitioners play central roles in sharing knowledge in appropriate ways, including through stories, language, cultural history, time on Country and intergenerational learning. Local organisations, schools, agencies, landholders and community groups can help create respectful opportunities for people to learn, reflect and build shared understanding. This includes recognising cultural history alongside more recent histories of land use, farming, conservation, restoration and community care. A fuller understanding of these histories can help ground future stewardship in respect, responsibility and shared learning.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

7.1 Community, organisational and institutional understanding of Country, cultural history, ecological values and stewardship responsibilities is deepening.

7.2 On-Country learning, storytelling, language and intergenerational knowledge-sharing build pride, connection and respect across Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

7.3 Cultural values, landscape history and stewardship responsibilities are more consistently recognised in community engagement, education, interpretation and organisational learning.

STRATEGY 8. SUPPORT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Communities, landholders and organisations are actively involved in caring for Country through ongoing participation, collaboration, shared responsibility and positive behaviour change.

This strategy focuses on making stewardship practical, visible and worthwhile for the people who live and work across the landscape. Landholders, community groups, local organisations, schools and residents can all contribute to caring for local places, whether on farms, in reserves, along waterways, in bushland or in community-managed areas. Practical support, incentives, trusted advice and positive stories can help people participate in ways that are meaningful and connected to their own places. Community events, field activities and local networks can strengthen participation by connecting people with the places they care about. When participation is strong, caring for Country becomes part of everyday community life rather than something carried only by formal programs or individual organisations.

ENABLING CONDITIONS

8.1 More landholders, community groups, organisations, schools and residents are participating in practical stewardship activities.

8.2 Stewardship practices that protect remnant vegetation, waterways, biodiversity and cultural values are more widely adopted across the landscape.

8.3 Positive stories, incentives and local networks increase community participation in stewardship and long-term care for Country.

"We all have our own roles, but we can do things better together."

– Stakeholder quote



DELIVERY PATHWAYS

Delivery pathways outline the primary ways collective on-ground action contributes to long-term outcomes across the Priority Place. They show how the Plan's ways of working are put into practice on Country.

Existing plans, responsibilities and priorities shape this work. It is delivered through partner projects, programs, investments and on-ground efforts across the Priority Place.

The pathways are cross-cutting. Each pathway may contribute to several long-term outcomes, and projects may involve more than one pathway. As enabling conditions improve, collective effort can be applied more effectively through these pathways. This helps practical action contribute to long-term outcomes across the Priority Place and, ultimately, to the Plan's vision.

Cultural practice

Cultural practice includes on-Country work that supports cultural authority, access, knowledge transfer, and culturally grounded care for Country. This includes cultural mapping, cultural fire, intergenerational learning, and the protection of cultural places, all led or guided by Traditional Owners. It strengthens the cultural foundations for caring for Country.

Habitat protection

Habitat protection involves efforts to maintain and protect important ecological sites and refuges. This includes remnant vegetation, threatened ecological communities, priority habitats, waterways, wetlands and coastal systems. It helps safeguard the places and conditions that support native species, ecological function and long-term resilience.



Species recovery actions

Species recovery actions involve targeted, species-specific work where broader habitat protection and threat response are insufficient on their own. These actions are guided by recovery plans and species-specific expertise and may include monitoring, breeding-site protection, translocation or captive breeding. They help prevent further decline and assist recovery for species with specialised needs or small, restricted populations.

Restoration and connectivity

Restoration and connectivity involve work to restore degraded areas, reconnect habitat and improve ecological function across the landscape. This includes revegetation, seed collection, fencing, erosion control, riparian restoration and habitat enhancement. These actions can support recovery in degraded or fragmented systems while also contributing to broader landscape recovery. They help improve movement, refuge and resilience across tenures.

Threat response

Threat response involves coordinated action to reduce pressures on ecological condition and recovery. This includes controlling invasive plants, introduced predators and grazing pressure. It also includes responding to altered fire regimes, plant disease, hydrological change and climate-related impacts. It helps protect restoration gains, reduce further decline and improve the capacity of ecological systems to recover.

Sustainable land management

Sustainable land management involves practical work across farms, reserves, waterways, bushland and other managed areas. This includes landholder-led stewardship, sustainable farming practices, soil and water management, protection of remnant vegetation, and weed and erosion control. This work maintains productive landscapes while reducing negative impacts on biodiversity, ecological function and landscape resilience.

Local stewardship action

Local stewardship action includes work led or supported by landholders, community groups, young people, schools, volunteers and local organisations. This includes local restoration, monitoring and citizen science. Field days, community education and other place-based activities help connect people with local places and priorities. These activities make stewardship visible, practical and connected to everyday community life.

Monitoring and adaptation

Monitoring and adaptation involve practical work to track change, review evidence and adjust management over time. Cultural indicators, scientific monitoring, local observations and mapping can each support this work. Reviewing on-ground actions and monitoring results helps partners understand what is changing, whether actions are working, and where management may need to adapt. This keeps stewardship responsive to changing conditions, new evidence and lessons from practice.



MEASURES OF PROGRESS AND ADAPTIVE LEARNING

The measures of progress translate the Plan's change logic into a practical basis for reflection, learning and adaptation. They focus on collaborative strategies and long-term outcomes, recognising that progress needs to be understood through both changes in how partners work together and changes in landscape condition over time.

This reflects the Plan's logic: the strategies are the main levers for strengthening collective stewardship, while the long-term outcomes describe the desired direction of change. Measuring progress against both helps show whether the conditions for effective action are improving and whether change is moving towards the Plan's outcomes. This can also help partners identify priorities, demonstrate progress and guide future investment.

Each measure of progress is linked to a primary long-term outcome or collaborative strategy, identifying the outcome or strategy it most directly tracks. Secondary links show where the same measure also relates to other outcomes or strategies. The indicators provide examples of evidence for shared learning and adaptation. Partners can develop detailed monitoring and reporting arrangements through delivery and review.



Progress is understood not just by what changes in the landscape, but by how partners learn, adapt and work together towards long-term outcomes.

OUTCOME MEASURES OF PROGRESS

Outcome measures of progress are primarily linked to long-term outcomes. Some measures also have secondary links to other outcomes, providing useful evidence of related change.

MEASURE OF PROGRESS	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	INDICATORS
Native species are increasing in abundance and diversity	O2	O1; O3	Species monitoring; species richness; breeding activity; presence or absence of focal species
Threatened species and ecological communities are recovering	O2	O1; O3	Population trends of threatened species; ecological community condition assessments; recovery monitoring; habitat occupancy
Vegetation condition, structure, recruitment, regeneration and resilience are improving	O3	O1; O2	Vegetation condition assessments; regeneration monitoring; canopy, understorey, groundcover structure; seedling recruitment; vegetation resilience indicators
Native vegetation and ecological systems are increasingly connected across the landscape	O1	O2; O3	Extent of connected habitat; landscape linkage mapping; corridor restoration; movement or distribution of focal species
Waterway condition and hydrological function are improving	O4	O1; O3	Water quality monitoring; riparian vegetation condition; wetland condition assessments; species diversity and presence; hydrological monitoring
Fire regimes are aligned with ecological and cultural requirements	O5	O1; O3; O7	Fire history mapping; cultural burning activities; ecological response to fire; fire age mosaics and fire intervals
Impacts from invasive species and other key pressures are reduced	O2	O3	Pest and weed monitoring; predator activity indices; extent of weed infestation; ecological condition trends
Productive landscapes are increasingly supporting biodiversity, ecological health and landscape resilience	O6	O1; O3	Vegetation retention on productive land; riparian protection and revegetation; connectivity across productive landscapes; reduced clearing; biodiversity condition within productive systems
Learning on Country supports intergenerational knowledge transfer	O7	O5	Participation in learning on Country activities, cultural camps; intergenerational engagement; ranger and youth participation
Country is recognised and understood as a cultural landscape, including its history and ongoing cultural significance	O7	—	Cultural interpretation activities; storytelling and community engagement; inclusion of cultural knowledge in planning and stewardship; community awareness and participation

STRATEGY MEASURES OF PROGRESS

Strategy measures are primarily linked to collaborative strategies. Some measures also have secondary links to other strategies or long-term outcomes, providing useful evidence of related change.

MEASURE OF PROGRESS	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	INDICATORS
Traditional Owners exercise authority in planning, stewardship and decision-making	S1	S3; O7	Traditional Owner leadership roles; co-designed planning processes; cultural authority informing stewardship activities; participation in decision-making processes
Planning and actions are coordinated across organisations and land tenures	S2	S5; O1	Cross-tenure projects; shared planning processes; coordinated delivery across priority areas; information-sharing and collaboration across organisations
Decision-making is increasingly undertaken jointly across organisations, communities and Traditional Owners	S2	S1; S5	Joint planning processes; Traditional Owner, community and organisational participation; shared decision-making; collaborative implementation
Cultural and scientific knowledge are applied in planning, restoration, monitoring and land management	S3	S1; O7	Cultural and scientific knowledge informing planning and management; on-Country activities; cultural burning; cultural mapping and monitoring; applied ecological monitoring
Decisions are informed by monitoring, evidence and shared learning	S4	S2; S3; O1	Monitoring programs informing management decisions; adaptive management processes; data and knowledge sharing; use of monitoring results in planning
Partnerships, stewardship roles and organisational knowledge are sustained	S5	S2; S6; O6	Workforce continuity; long-term partnerships; ongoing stewardship programs; succession and knowledge-sharing; sustained collaboration between organisations
Workforce capability and delivery capacity are strengthening across the Priority Place	S6	S5; O7	Ranger and practitioner training; workforce participation; skill development; organisational capacity; learning on Country participation
Awareness and understanding of ecological and cultural values are increasing across the community	S7	O6; O7	Community engagement activities; education programs; storytelling and cultural learning activities; participation in awareness and stewardship events
Participation in stewardship and caring-for-Country activities is increasing	S8	S6; O6; O7	Participation in stewardship activities; ranger and volunteer involvement; community restoration activities; learning on Country participation
Improved land management and stewardship practices are being adopted across the landscape	S8	S3; O3; O6	Adoption of stewardship practices; revegetation and restoration activities; riparian protection; biodiversity-friendly land management practices

ONGOING STEWARDSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Care for Country across the Priority Place is an ongoing, shared responsibility. It is grounded in cultural authority, carried through relationships, and made real through practical action across many places. No single organisation or group carries this work alone.

The process of developing this Plan brought people together to discuss the direction of the Priority Place. Elders, community members, landholders, organisations and partners considered the pressures affecting Country and the changes they want to see in the landscape. These conversations built trust and understanding and helped clarify how different people and organisations can contribute.

For the Plan to remain useful, partners will need to keep returning to it as work continues. Coming together around the Plan can help maintain direction, guide stewardship and investment, and adapt action as learning grows.



KEEPING THE PLAN ACTIVE

The Plan provides a reference point for future conversations, project development and investment. It also provides a basis for monitoring, review and planning as work continues. It helps people and organisations connect their work to the broader direction of the Plan while continuing to operate within their own roles, responsibilities and programs.

South Coast NRM will serve as custodian of the Plan and support the processes that keep it active over time. This role will keep it accessible and active while recognising the contribution and ongoing ownership of the broader community of people and organisations who helped shape it and continue to care for the landscape.

Keeping the Plan active should be flexible and relationship-based. It should enable coordination without centralising control and create practical opportunities for people to stay connected, reflect on progress and identify what may be needed next.

A regular Fitz–Stirling stewardship forum could provide a point of return for this collective effort. It would allow people and organisations to discuss current work, recognise progress, identify gaps and consider how local projects connect to wider landscape priorities.

More focused collaboration could occur through project- or theme-based working groups. These could help coordinate priorities such as fire, waterways, revegetation, monitoring and priority species. Other collaborations could focus on cultural learning or stewardship on private land.



SUSTAINING RELATIONSHIPS AND CULTURAL AUTHORITY

Stewardship will depend on relationships maintained beyond the development of the Plan. These need to connect people who hold cultural responsibilities, manage land, take local action and bring knowledge across the Priority Place. They will need to be sustained in practical ways as circumstances change.

Cultural authority must remain central to ongoing collaboration. Noongar Traditional Owners hold enduring cultural responsibilities for Country. Future planning and on-ground work will be stronger where cultural authority is recognised in practice, and where Elders, ranger groups, cultural practitioners and community members continue to shape how Country is cared for.

Recognising cultural authority in practice requires more than acknowledgement or consultation. It depends on cultural knowledge, Elder advice and Traditional Owner leadership being incorporated into decision-making, project design and delivery. The Plan creates clear and respectful pathways for cultural authority to guide ongoing stewardship.

Stewardship also depends on the people making daily decisions across the working landscape. Collaboration with farmers and landholders must recognise the care already occurring on farms and other private lands, enable participation that is worthwhile and connected to their own places, and connect this work to the Plan's broader shared direction.

Government agencies have important roles in managing public land and aligning programs with landscape priorities. Local organisations and community groups keep stewardship visible through local action and by bringing community perspectives into planning and collaboration. Researchers and technical partners can turn monitoring and evidence into learning that supports better decisions.

Maintaining these relationships will help future efforts stay connected across the landscape rather than become isolated in separate projects.

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

The Fitz–Stirling landscape will continue to change. Ecological pressures are ongoing, and their effects will shift over time. Climate change will continue to influence local conditions and intensify the effects of other pressures on Country. Stewardship will therefore need to remain responsive, drawing on learning and reflection to understand what is changing, what is working, and where effort may need to be adjusted.

Learning need not occur only through formal reporting. Its purpose is to help partners learn from practice and make sound decisions as conditions change. This includes assessing whether the Plan remains useful for collaboration and whether priorities remain current. It can also help partners decide where to focus their efforts.

The timing of any review should remain flexible and depend on need and available resources. The Plan can be revisited when partners need to refresh priorities, reflect on progress, or guide the next phase of work.

The process of developing this Plan established a way of working that can continue. It created space for shared conversation, Elder guidance and trust among those involved in caring for the Priority Place. Maintaining this momentum will help carry the Plan forward as a living guide for the Fitz–Stirling Priority Place.



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Long-term stewardship depends on relationships that endure, cultural authority that guides decision-making, and a willingness to learn as Country changes.

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South Coast NRM is the leading independent natural resource management organisation in the South Coast region of Western Australia. We work to preserve and enhance the region's natural and cultural assets through strong partnerships with local communities, Traditional Owners, landholders and stakeholders.

Australian Government

SOUTHCOAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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