

Mornington Peninsula Biolink Plan

Biolinks are linkages that improve ecological connectivity between patches of natural habitat.

A key priority of the [Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network](#) (MPLN) is reconnecting patches of existing remnant vegetation. Despite being the most [biodiverse](#) 750km² in Victoria, more than 80% of the Mornington Peninsula has been cleared for farming and development.

The MPLN began to tackle the issue of habitat loss by drafting potential routes of reconnection across the peninsula. We used habitat quality mapping as the basis for the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Biolinks Plan (refer to map).

The plan was developed through a number of workshops with local Landcare representatives, in consultation with members of the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Natural Systems Team, Parks Victoria, SPIFFA, local ecologists and others. This map has been invaluable to groups when planning their restoration projects, providing a scientific rationale to their work and supporting their project proposals.

Recently, the MPLN was successful in securing a \$20,000 per-year grant for Year 1 of a five-year project, "[Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape](#)". This will continue the work of the highly successful, NRCL-funded "[Bay to Bay Biolink](#)" project of the Devilbend Foundation.

"*Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape*" aims to sustain and build the capacity of local groups to implement and maintain on-ground projects that contribute to landscape restoration, connectivity and environmental sustainability. Using the "Bay to Bay Biolink" as a model, the project engages a project coordinator, an engagement specialist and a local ecologist to assist peninsula Landcare groups to work with local residents to produce local biolink plans.

The project will be undertaken over five years across the Mornington Peninsula, including: Watson Creek Catchment; Sheepwash Creek Catchment; Main Creek Catchment; Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare region; Dunns Creek Catchment; Merricks Coolart Catchment and Red Hill South Landcare region.