

Native Vegetation on your Property

What is native vegetation and when
do you need approval to cut or clear it?



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Be Clear Before You Clear

Unsure if vegetation is native? The Shire provides free resources to help identify local plants, or you may need an environmental consultant. Call the Environmental Service on 9290 6651 for advice.



Environmental Asset Inspection (EAI) Service

The Shire offers a fee-based service where an environmental officer inspects your property, maps environmental assets, and provides advice to help reduce development impacts. This can assist in avoiding delays when lodging applications.



Fire Hazard Inspection Service

To meet bushfire safety requirements, the Shire offers free property inspections to identify fire hazards. Call 9290 6696 to arrange a visit or download the Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice from the Shire's website.



What is native vegetation?

Native vegetation refers to naturally occurring local plants, including trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses. In the Shire of Mundaring, the Jarrah-Marri Forest dominates and forms part of a global biodiversity hotspot, with many species unique to this region.

Why is native vegetation important?

About 80% of plants in the Southwest Australia Ecoregion are found nowhere else, many of them rare or endangered. Native vegetation supports biodiversity and contributes to the area's natural beauty. It provides food, shelter, wildlife corridors, erosion control, clean waterways, soil health, shade, windbreaks, and privacy. Key threats include land clearing, weeds, feral animals, altered fire regimes, disease, and climate change.



What native vegetation is protected?

Rules under the Shire's Local Planning Scheme and state and federal laws protect native vegetation, habitat trees, and creeklines. Most clearing requires approval, so landowners and contractors must contact the Shire first. Additional permits may be needed from state or federal agencies.

What are Local Natural Areas (LNA's)?

LNAs are mapped areas containing native vegetation or features like creeklines and granite outcrops. They are protected under the Local Planning Scheme. Maps are available online or by contacting Shire officers.

Habitat trees

Habitat trees are native trees, dead or alive, with hollows or large trunks that provide shelter and nesting for native fauna like Black Cockatoos. Because hollows take centuries to form, these trees are irreplaceable and legally protected under state and federal laws. Larger, older trees receive priority protection.

Can I clear native vegetation to keep livestock?

No. Clearing for livestock is not permitted, and grazing damage is also considered clearing. Keeping stock often requires planning approval to manage soil, vegetation, and environmental impacts. See the Shire's stock-keeping guidelines.

Exemptions for specific types of clearing

Clearing may not require Shire approval if:

- The vegetation is exotic (non-native).
- It is within 3m of a building, overhanging a building, or within 1m of a fence.
- It is required under the Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice (with possible alternatives approved by the Shire).

Other exemptions depend on zoning and lot size. Always check with the Shire before removing vegetation.

What happens if I clear protected vegetation without approval?

Unauthorised clearing can result in penalties under local, state, and federal laws. Offenders may also be required to restore the area, which can be costly.



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to find out more
about Native
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