

What is an environmental weed?

Environmental weeds are plant species, usually exotic, which can invade and persist in native vegetation. Some of these come from garden plantings, and may be spread widely through wind or by animals, especially birds.

For advice on species that should not be planted in gardens, refer to Manningham's Weeds Identification booklet which is available in hard copy from Council or in electronic form at www.manningham.vic.gov.au

How can I establish indigenous vegetation on my land?

If you wish to plant indigenous species on your land, there are many sources of plants. Council can supply a list of indigenous plants for Manningham and information on local nurseries they are available from.

Council's 'Native Splendour' booklet also provides lists of appropriate indigenous plants for Manningham.

You could also collect and propagate your own local species. If you wish to collect outside your own land permission will be required from the landowner, for privately owned land, or from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, for public land.

Translation Services

An interpreting service is available if required by contacting Manningham City Council on 9840 9333.

Arabic / عربي
خدمة الترجمة متاحة إذا لزم الأمر عن طريق الاتصال بمجلس بلدية مدينة مانينجهام على هاتف رقم 9840 9333.

Chinese / 中文
需要的话可以提供翻译服务，联系 Manningham 市政厅电话 9840 9333。

Greek / Ελληνικά
Υπηρεσία διερμηνείας είναι διαθέσιμη, αν απαιτείται, επικοινωνώντας με το Δημοτικό Συμβούλιο του Manningham στο 9840 9333.

Italian / Italiano
È possibile utilizzare il servizio d'interpretariato se necessario telefonando al comune di Manningham, al 9840 9333.

Korean / 한국어
통역 서비스를 원하시면 매닝햄 시의회에 9840 9333으로 연락하셔서 요청하시면 됩니다.

Macedonian / Македонски
Ако ви треба преведувачка услуга јавете се на Општина Манингхам на 9840 9333.

Persian / فارسی
خدمات ترجمه شفاهی موجود است. در صورت نیاز می توانید با شهرداری مانینگهام به شماره تلفن 9840 9333 تماس بگیرید.

For further information, please contact Manningham Council's Statutory Planning Department on 9840 9495 or 9840 9273.



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Living with bushland and trees in Manningham



Planning for environment

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Retaining Bushland

The City of Manningham is fortunate to include extensive areas of native bushland as well as important individual trees and strands of trees. These contribute to the municipality's green environment and landscape, providing shade and shelter for buildings and people. Areas of native vegetation (indigenous vegetation) are important as they provide food and shelter for native birds and animals.

What planning controls apply to vegetation removal?

Planning controls apply to the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation, including trees, shrubs, grasses and other ground layer plants, in Manningham. This can apply to both native vegetation and exotic trees. Any landowner, developer or contractor wanting to clear or lop trees, or remove any native vegetation, must first obtain the necessary town planning permits from Council.

Under state wide controls, administered through all Council planning schemes, a town planning permit is often required before the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation can occur. The Manningham Planning Scheme may also impose additional permit requirements for specified areas. Permits can be required for the removal of exotic vegetation, usually larger exotic trees, as well as native vegetation.

A permit to remove vegetation may still be required even where a permit has been issued for other buildings or works, or where a subdivision has nominated approved building envelopes in which buildings and works can occur. A permit may also be required for the removal of vegetation within an approved building envelope.

Penalties can apply to the destruction, removal or lopping of vegetation without a permit. To find out what vegetation clearance controls and permit requirements apply please contact Manningham Council's Statutory Planning Department on 9840 9495 or 9840 9273.

What steps should I take before undertaking construction?

Before starting works that might affect trees or native vegetation you must obtain all necessary permits. The permit may contain specific conditions which require identification and/or protection of certain vegetation. To protect retained vegetation during site development, whether individual trees or native vegetation including ground cover, the following should be considered:

- Construction of a temporary fence around areas of vegetation to be retained. The required standard of fencing will depend on the risk of damage.
- Temporary fencing should preferably be placed outside the edge of the canopy (drip line) of any trees in proximity to the construction area. If this is not possible, minimise vehicle traffic under the canopy which would compact the soil and damage the tree's root system.
- Ensure all contractors are kept outside the vegetation protection zone.
- Avoid excavating near a tree, particularly where more than 25 per cent of the root system would be affected.
- Avoid altering the soil level over a tree's root system (within the drip line) by adding fill or removing topsoil.
- Do not place building materials, soil or rubbish on native vegetation, or around retained trees.
- Ensure that the tree's water supply is not significantly changed through drainage or excessive inflows.
- Protect retained ground storey vegetation from water run-off that contains weed seeds, nutrients, or sediment. Do not use weedy fill or topsoil, which would cause weed invasion, near retained native vegetation.
- Wherever possible prune trees that are in the way rather than removing them. Carefully cut branches to avoid damage to the tree trunk and ensure optimum healing of the cut surface. Seek specialist advice if necessary.

- Ensure that chemicals such as oil or fuel are not stored near trees, or spilled on the ground nearby.
- It may be possible to 'rescue' native species from areas to be developed, or propagate from them, and re-plant them elsewhere.

How do I look after native vegetation on my land?

Even small areas of bushland can be managed to keep their biodiversity values and contribute to the conservation of native plants and animals. A bushland garden can be very attractive, a lower maintenance alternative to exotic landscaping and will attract native birds and other fauna to your garden.

If the ground layer is mainly native grasses and herbs, occasional slashing may provide suitable open space instead of sown lawn while still retaining some environmental value.

If you want a lawn, rather than establishing exotic grasses which can require regular watering, fertiliser and mowing, you may wish to consider low maintenance native grasses such as Wallaby Grass and Weeping Grass.

The main management issue for retained bushland is weed control. Unless you have low weed levels in your bushland area, exotic species will need to be gradually controlled.

You can reduce the ongoing risk of weed invasion by minimising disturbance in areas of retained native vegetation. Factors which promote weeds include grazing stock, vehicle traffic, other soil disturbance, storage of materials and dumping of garden rubbish.