

# NATIVE VEGETATION

## BENEFITS OF NATIVE VEGETATION ON YOUR PROPERTY

### Biodiversity

- Habitat for birds, mammals and insects
- Conservation and protection of threatened species
- Connectivity between natural areas benefiting flora and fauna on a landscape scale -connectivity also helps maintain diversity
- Legacy for future generations
- Recreation

### Productivity

#### INCREASED LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRODUCTION

- Providing shade
- Protection against winds
- Reduced moisture loss (adjacent pasture/crops): reduced windspeed and higher humidity within sheltered areas

#### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

- Lower birth mortality in both cattle and sheep
- Increased twin lamb survival
- Increased livestock growth rates through reduced heat and cold stress resulting in improved meat and/or wool production
- Increased gross value of pasture output (at its highest when proportion of remnants is 34%); retain paddock trees and patches of bush for sheltered microclimates

#### CROPS AND FRUIT

- Warmer soils in spring and earlier crop planting
- Less blossom damage prior to fruit set: frosts and strong winds will damage blossoms, reducing pollination and production of fruit
- Reduction in moisture loss gives better crop production
- Increased yields of 20%-100% were observed in sheltered horticultural crops compared with unsheltered crops
- Pollination of crops is improved when native insects can fly from adjacent bushland
- Habitat for biological agents: predatory species that control pests

## did you know?

Native fauna can consume large numbers of crop and pasture pests.

Magpies will consume 40 scarab (grass-grub) larvae a day.

Insectivorous bats can consume up to half their body weight in invertebrates in a night and some species feed extensively on agricultural pests.



Eastern barred Bandicoot  
Photo: B. Brown

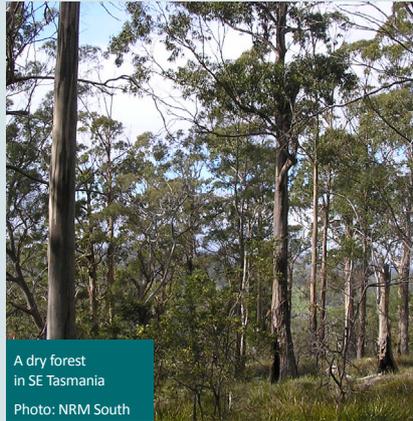


Tasmanian Devil  
Photo: S. Bryant.





*Chiloglottis* sp.  
Photo: NRM South



A dry forest  
in SE Tasmania  
Photo: NRM South

## Soil and water conservation

- Erosion control, sediment retention: vegetation slows water and wind movement
- Stabilises soil surface through the action of roots, organic matter and increased infiltration
- Lowers water table through root action reducing waterlogging and salinity
- Filters pollutants from surface water flows: ground cover plants and litter layer help filter out pollutants before they reach the waterways

## Aesthetics & well-being

- Connection to place
- Recreation (bird-watching, bush walking)
- Landscape values
- Satisfaction in preserving original landscape
- Additional income
- “spiritual, therapeutic effect”



*Pterostylis*  
*pedunculata*  
Photo: NRM South

## Types of native vegetation

Vegetation type is largely dependent on a multitude of factors, including soil type, geology, altitude and rainfall.

- Riparian (around watercourses)
- Wetland
- Saltmarsh
- Treeless (native grasslands, scrubland, heathland & moorland)
- Eucalypt forest and woodland
- Non-eucalypt forest and woodland
- Rainforest
- Regrowth vegetation

## Management

- Wet forest: livestock exclusion preferable
- Dry forest and woodlands: can be grazed for short periods during winter
- Riparian and wetland areas: total livestock exclusion
- Encourage presence of all structural layers within vegetation (ground cover, shrub layer, canopy including regenerating young trees, standing dead/dying trees and fallen logs)
- Provide linkages between remnants and large bush areas where possible
- Weed control: Larger remnants are more resilient (likely to resist weed infestation and dieback)

## shelterbelts

Where there is a lack of natural native vegetation, shelterbelts can be grown to provide some of the benefits, including connecting to larger native vegetation stands.

Use local native species, replicating the structural layers found in natural vegetation (planting trees first then underplanting with appropriate shrubs, sedges, grasses and ground cover species).

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### Refuge for browsing animals (wallabies and pademelons)

Invest in wallaby-proof fencing around your production areas – leave bush areas fence-free to allow natural animal movement. Plan wallaby-proof fencing with neighbouring land owners.

If browsing animal populations are high, seek advice from Wildlife Management Branch for Game Management Plans. Reducing populations of browsers is preferable to allowing them to starve if cut-off from a food source. High populations fenced off from a food source will also impact heavily on the understorey within native vegetation.

### Native predators

Tasmanian Devils and Spotted tailed Quolls (both threatened species) will predate on domestic poultry if the opportunity arises. It is your responsibility as a landholder to ensure your poultry are housed safely. See Parks and Wildlife Service design for a safe free-range quoll-proof chook house.

Wedge-tailed Eagles, White-bellied Sea-Eagles and Grey Goshawks: There are some public misconceptions about raptors that put these birds at risk. Wedge-tailed eagles, sea-eagles and grey goshawks are listed as endangered. Landholders should provide shelter such as bushes or other places for free-range poultry to take refuge if raptors are around. Young chicks/bantams should be fully protected.

Healthy lambs and kids are rarely taken by eagles and moving livestock closer to habitation when due to lamb/kid reduces the risks even further. Occasionally young inexperienced eagles can become a short term problem. Seek advice and assistance from Biodiversity Conservation Branch of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.



White phase of Grey Goshawk  
Photo: Cradle Coast NRM

## LAND CLEARING

In Tasmania, land clearing controls apply to both public and private land. Controls apply to both forest vegetation and threatened non-forest vegetation communities. A certified forest practices plan is required to authorise land clearing (clearing forest or clearing and converting threatened non-forest native vegetation).

There are some exemptions from the requirement to have a forest practices plan to authorise land clearing such as:

- Providing a buffer for existing infrastructure (e.g. dwellings, fences) or for public safety
- Clearing associated with dam works or easements (in accordance with relevant permits)
- Approved fire management programs
- An area less than 1 hectare per year or less than 100 tonnes of wood (whichever is lesser) and is not classed as vulnerable land (e.g. streamside, steep slope, high erodibility, karst).

There may also be value in the future for retained native vegetation through carbon credits.

### FIRE

To minimise the risks associated with fire, there are four main areas that Guidelines for *Development in Bushfire Prone Areas of Tasmania* recommends should be considered:

**A. DEFENDABLE SPACE FROM BUSHFIRES:**

Produced by separation of the building from the bushfire hazard and minimisation of nearby hazards;

**B. ROADS:**

Planning for network connectivity and designing and constructing roads and fire trails for emergency use;

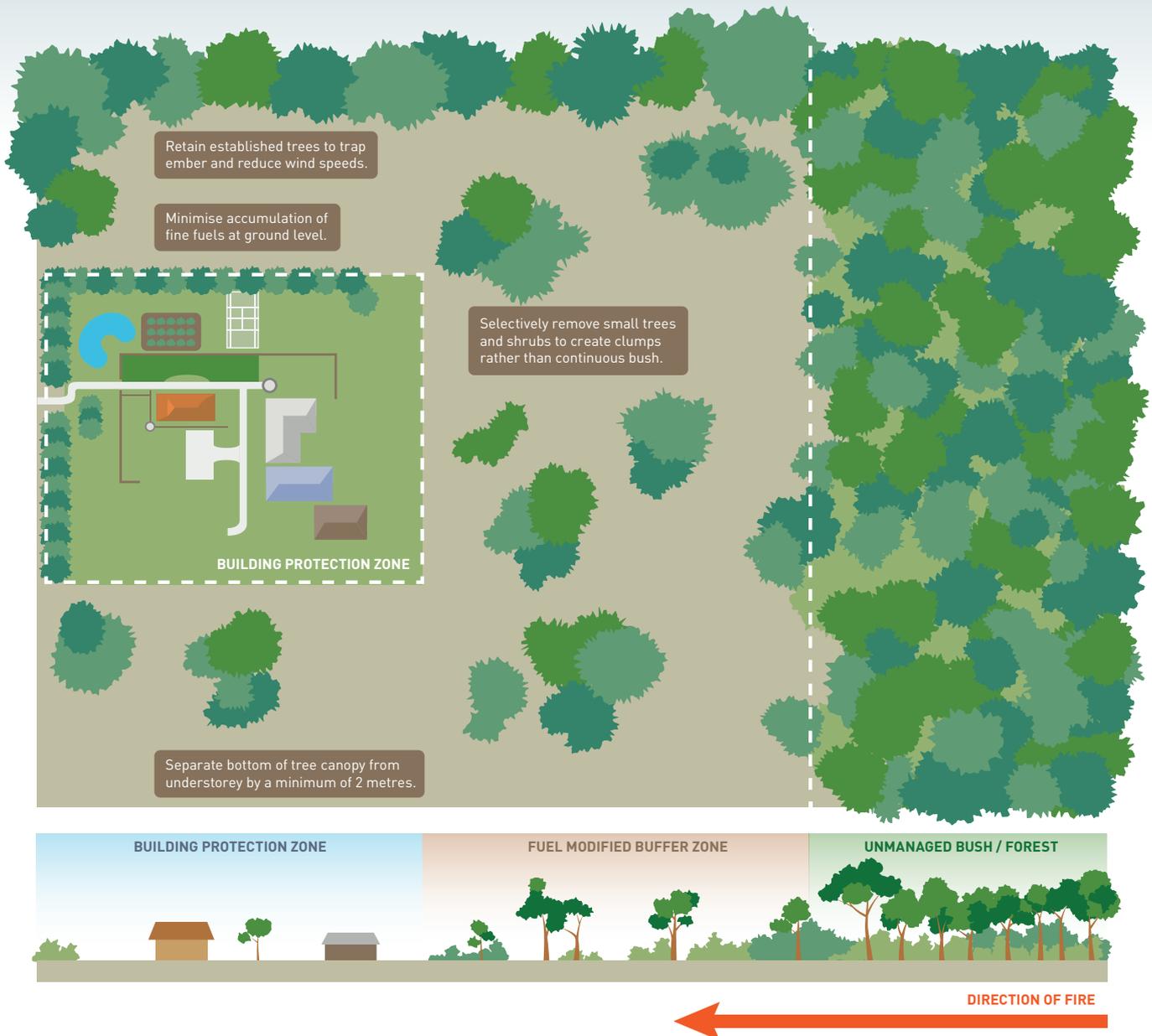
**C. WATER SUPPLIES:**

Provision of adequate and accessible water supplies for effective fire fighting; and

**D. BUILDING:**

Siting, design and construction to maximise fire safety.

Lot layout showing the Building Protection Zone surrounded by the Fuel Modified Buffer Zone from “Guidelines for development in bushfire prone areas of Tasmania” Courtesy of the Tasmanian Fire Service



## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Guidelines for development in bushfire prone areas of Tasmania:** [http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/publications/Bush\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/publications/Bush_Guide.pdf)

**Private Land Conservation Program:**

<http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/conservation/conservation-on-private-land/private-land-conservation-program/protected-areas-on-private-land>

**Tasmanian Environmental Legislation, Part 4: Forestry and Vegetation:**

[http://www.tfga.com.au/index.php/download\\_file/view/119/218/Content\\_Part04.pdf?file=Content\\_Part04.pdf](http://www.tfga.com.au/index.php/download_file/view/119/218/Content_Part04.pdf?file=Content_Part04.pdf)

**FPA Information on land clearing controls in Tasmania:**

[http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/58121/Land\\_clearing\\_information\\_sheet\\_2013.pdf](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/58121/Land_clearing_information_sheet_2013.pdf)

**Barnes R, Mc Coull C. 2002. A Land Managers Guide for Assessing and Monitoring the Health of Tasmania's Forested Bush. DPIPWE.**

**Downloadable from:** <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/Documents/Nature-Conservation-Report-02-02.pdf>

**Link to Tasveg benchmarks – the recognised standard in measuring the health of different types of native vegetation:** [http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/conservation/development-planning-conservation-assessment/tools/monitoring-and-mapping-tasmanias-vegetation-\(tasveg\)/vegetation-monitoring-in-tasmania](http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/conservation/development-planning-conservation-assessment/tools/monitoring-and-mapping-tasmanias-vegetation-(tasveg)/vegetation-monitoring-in-tasmania)

**Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit. A guide to managing and conserving the bushland on your property:** <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/conservation/conservation-on-private-land/bush-information-management/tasmanian-bushcare-toolkit>

[www.understorey-network.org.au/](http://www.understorey-network.org.au/)

<http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/>

**A 'how to' guide for establishing native plants from seed or seedlings:**

<http://nrmonline.nrm.gov.au/downloads/mql:1550/content>

**Revegetation guide from Greening Australia:**

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cpp/Revegetation.pdf>

**A Revegetation Guide for Eucalypt Woodlands. Publication available from Greening Australia**

**Guide to planting shelterbelts:**

<http://egln.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Practical-guides-shelterbelt.pdf>

**Long-stem Planting Guide:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/grants/longstemguide.pdf>

**The DPIPWE website provides a wealth of information on weeds including management options and plans, follow the tabs on invasive species and the weed index:** <http://www.dPIPWE.tas.gov.au>

**Living with Kangaroos and Wallabies, Wallaby Proof Fencing, Monitoring and Measuring Pasture Losses to Wildlife, Property based management planning:** <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/living-with-wildlife/living-with-kangaroos-and-wallabies>

**Birds: Birds in Backyards:** [www.birdsinbackyards.net/](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/)

**LIVING WITH WILDLIFE – Eagles & Hawks:** <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/living-with-wildlife/living-with-eagles-and-hawks>

**LIVING WITH WILDLIFE - Tasmanian devils and quolls:** <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/living-with-wildlife/living-with-tasmanian-devils-and-quolls>

**For more information please refer to NRM South's Healthy Farming & Environment Reference Guide:** <http://www.nrmsouth.org.au/>