

# Bushland in our community.

As residents of Willoughby City, you are fortunate to have beautiful bushland reserves at your doorstep. These parks are places for you to enjoy the abundance of native flora and fauna, dramatic landscapes and peace and quiet.

Willoughby City Council, The National Parks and Wildlife Service, the NSW Fire Brigades and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust are hard at work to ensure these bush reserves are sustained as a habitat and shelter for native plants and animals, as well as ensuring they remain accessible to the community.



# You can make all the difference.

The way in which we live and maintain our gardens around our bushland reserves has a dramatic impact on the overall health of the bush.

This brochure provides some simple tips on how you can be a bush friendly neighbour.

## Major organisers.

The Bush Friendly Neighbour project is an initiative of the following organisations. Please contact these organisations to obtain further information.



**Willoughby City Council**  
Phone: 9777 1000  
Website: [www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au)



**National Parks and Wildlife Service**  
Phone: 9977 6732  
Website: [www.npws.nsw.gov.au](http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au)



**NSW Fire Brigades**  
In emergency phone: 000  
Fire Safety Information: 9742 7400  
Website: [www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au)



**Sydney Harbour Federation Trust**  
"Carefully planning the future of unique lands on Sydney Harbour"  
Phone: 8969 2100  
Website: [www.harbourtrust.gov.au](http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au)



## Support groups.

**Environment Protection Authority (EPA)**  
Phone: Pollution Hotline – 13 15 55  
Website: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

**Sydney Metro Wildlife Service**  
Phone: 9413 4099

**WIRES**  
Phone: 8977 3333  
Website: [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)

**Backyard Buddies**  
Phone: 1300 7BUDDY  
Email: [backyard.buddies@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:backyard.buddies@npws.nsw.gov.au)

**Ocean Watch Australia Ltd**  
Phone: 9660 2262  
Website: [www.oceanwatch.org.au](http://www.oceanwatch.org.au)



Help create the right environment.

# Be a bush friendly neighbour



# The right plants create a friendly environment.

Your garden not only provides for you, it provides food and shelter for many native animals. The nature of your garden also affects the wellbeing of surrounding gardens and bushland.

Create the right environment in your garden by selecting the right plants. Whether you choose natives or exotic plants, consider carefully these points:

- Are they a food source for native animals?
- Do they have a sound root structure to help reduce erosion?
- Avoid or remove plants that will spread into adjacent bushland
- Choose plants that don't require too much watering



# Conserving water for you and the bush.

Pollutants in stormwater and garden runoff have devastating effects on our local bushlands. To help reduce erosion, rubbish and environmental weed growth you can:

- Install roof runoff tanks, then use this stored water on your garden
- Choose plants that require minimal watering
- Compost and mulch your garden. Mulching can reduce evaporation from the soil by up to 80% and compost provides nutrients for your garden – without expensive fertilisers
- Water in the cool of day, ideally early morning or in the evening



# Responsible pet care.

Caring for your cat or dog means knowing when to keep them under control and how to provide the right shelter.

As they share their environment with native animals, these basic tips will help domestic and native animals live in harmony:

- Keep your cat indoors at night. This will reduce the chance of pet road kill, fox attacks, and reduce the toll on our native animals. Cat collars with bells also give native animals a fighting chance
- Dogs must be kept on a leash outside of their home. Designated parks in your neighbourhood allow dogs to run freely, but please remember dogs are not allowed at all in National Parks
- Remember to microchip and register your pets with your local council to ensure they are easily identifiable. Desexing your pets helps reduce the number of stray and feral animals which prey on wildlife

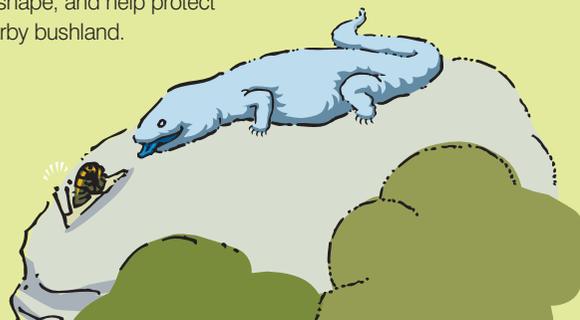


# Use friendly pesticides and fertilisers.

Pesticides and fertilisers can be toxic to native animals, your pets and even your children. They also have the potential to poison native plant species in surrounding bushland.

- Instead of pesticides encourage natural deterrents like the native Blue Tongue Lizards or Leaf Tailed Geckos that eat pests like snails, slugs and bugs

Excess fertilising also increases weed growth in bushland. By using slow release fertilisers, mulching and plenty of earthworms, you will keep your garden in good shape, and help protect your nearby bushland.



# Fire hazard reduction.

It is an ongoing commitment of the NSW Fire Brigades to reduce the hazards and risks associated with fire throughout NSW.

The community can assist us by ensuring:

- Homes and grounds are well maintained and free from waste
- Gutters are cleaned regularly
- Flammable or dangerous substances are disposed of or stored correctly
- Tree loppings or grass clippings are not deposited behind your home into Council reserves and National Parks
- A Static Water Supply (SWS) sticker is on the letterbox if you own a pool



To obtain information on becoming a member of a Community Fire Unit (CFU), visit [www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au)

# Bushland is for everyone.

Our local bushland reserves are public open spaces – to be shared with the whole community. As they are small parks, the constant pressures of human encroachment threatens their existence.

It's illegal to clear bushland areas to extend your backyard, erect fences, buildings or dump rubbish. Tree vandalism, poisoning or unauthorised pruning are just as serious offenses.

Fines apply to offenders, and local government agencies and National Parks and Wildlife Service have the power to remove offending items from bushland and issue substantial fines.

Remember, the right to enjoy our precious local bushland is shared by everyone!

