



Mowing within remnant vegetation

Mowing undertaken by Landcare and some locals is valued by many in the community, with the obvious benefit of beautification of the areas and opening up access for walking. The enhanced fire safety for the town is also appreciated by locals and CFA alike.

But within our maintenance of public reserves, walking tracks and vegetation corridors, Landcare also has goals of improving habitat value for native flora and fauna and enhancing biodiversity. We must be careful to retain what pockets of remnant vegetation we have through a sensitive and minimalist mowing regime.

These tips aim to remind Landcare members of the basic do's and don'ts of mowing as part of bush regeneration. Adopting these guiding techniques can assist with the long-term sustainability of preservation and restoration projects in our natural areas, particularly where there is remnant understorey vegetation, significant wildflowers and grassland such as along roadsides, the rail reserve and near Five Mile Creek.

DO

- Value biodiversity in the natural environment
- Avoid mowing entirely in any marked or known high conservation value zones
- Always mow using the highest setting on the mower
- Consider the timing: most plants need to grow until at least early summer if they are to set seed and survive. Limit mowing during spring.
- Only mow access paths or firebreaks that are carefully planned out – keep width to a minimum
- Leave large swathes of high-quality grassland unmown
- Permit untidiness, as it would be in nature and within any healthy grassland
- Avoid mowing of small shrubs, groundcovers and emerging tree seedlings

DON'T

- Mow indigenous grasslands any lower than 100mm, or too frequently. They do not adapt well to repeated mowing and over time will be replaced by more rampant introduced grasses
- Mow areas where wildflowers are known to exist so they have a chance to flower and set seed
- Don't mow unless it is for fire prevention or access
- Add to soil compaction by mowing when the ground is very wet
- Poison around the base of trees with non-selective herbicides just to make mowing easier