

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES) POLICY ON URBAN BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT

PREAMBLE

The National Trust has been involved with the conservation and management of urban bushland since its inception in 1945. When the Trust developed its 'bush regeneration' programs in the early 1970s, it focussed public attention on the value of bushland remnants and convinced managing authorities on the practicality of undertaking effective rehabilitation of bushland degraded by urban impacts.

The Trust actively supported the preparation and introduction of State Environmental Planning Policy No 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas.ⁱ

The Trust has undertaken numerous bushland surveys since 1977.

In 1988 the National Trust adopted its first Urban Bushland Policy and this document builds on that earlier Policy. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Trust's Urban Bushland Policy.

POLICY

The Trust will continue to carry out a Bush Management Program for authorities owning or managing urban bushland, for a fee as determined by the Trust and based on the following policy objectives.

1. The Trust will identify, as far as possible, the present native plant species and composition of communities in urban bushland, and where practical determine those which may have been present before urbanisation;
2. The Trust will identify changes which may prevent the maintenance or re-establishment of the plant communities existing prior to urbanisation;
3. The Trust will encourage the owner/management authority to take steps to mitigate any such adverse impacts of urbanisation or inappropriate use on urban bushland;
4. The Trust will determine, in consultation with the owner/management authority, objectives for the appropriate management of the present plant communities on each site;
5. In accordance with the above policy objectives, the Trust will conserve, restore and regenerate indigenous species, and control alien and invading species in these plant communities with the long-term aim of achieving a minimal maintenance self-sustaining system;
6. The Trust will encourage the conservation of, and provision of suitable habitat for, native fauna;
7. In undertaking its Bush Management Programs, the Trust will seek to identify and conserve all of the heritage values of bushland including its evidence of Aboriginal occupation, cultural history (particularly historic or horticulturally significant plantings, archaeological relics and scenic, landscape, view corridor qualities);
8. The Trust will encourage appropriate use and enjoyment of urban bushland, and the provision of interpretive material.

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ⁱ *The Australian Natural Heritage Charter (Standards and Principles for the Conservation of Places of Natural Heritage Significance)* published by the Australian Heritage Commission in association with the Australian Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), now the World Conservation Union. 1996