



Australian Association  
of Bush Regenerators  
*working with natural processes*

# Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Inc.

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## CULTURAL PLANTINGS POLICY

### 1 CURRENCY

This policy came into effect in 2005 and will remain current until amended or revoked.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This policy addresses the opinion of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators in respect to bush regeneration and 'cultural plantings'.
- 2.2 AABR has no regulatory role in the matter of 'cultural plantings' in respect to their impact on bushland areas. This policy document is a reference point for AABR members and others with an interest in the issues relating to cultural plantings affecting bushland.
- 2.3 Any of the policy statements can be used freely by AABR members or others on the proviso that the statements are sourced and used in full, without paraphrasing or condensing. Citation: Australian Association Of Bush Regenerators (NSW) 2005, *Cultural Plantings Policy*.

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 'Cultural Plantings' are plantings which may:
  - be defined as such in a regulatory, legislative or strategic document;
  - have historical or heritage significance;
  - be of cultural importance to Aboriginal people;
  - be commemorative or have horticultural value because of their size; age, rarity, uniqueness of form or context in the landscape.
- 3.2 Cultural Plantings are generally exotic species but they may also include native species. The term usually relates to trees but may refer to shrubs and groundcover plants. Cultural Plantings may be protected or conserved under a heritage listing or order that relates to a building – for example, an historic homestead and its garden.
- 3.3 Cultural Plantings may be protected under local government, state or national legislation. Each State and Territory has different bodies and legislation that may protect and conserve Cultural Plantings.
- 3.4 Cultural Plantings and native vegetation may be protected under different and potentially conflicting legislation.
- 3.5 It is advisable to confer with bodies such as local councils, State Heritage agencies, The National Trust, the Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Local Heritage/Historical Societies, Cemetery Trusts, Heritage Trusts and the National Heritage Register to determine whether Cultural Plantings are subject to preservation orders.
- 3.6 Bush regenerators may work in an environment where native ecosystems and Cultural Plantings co-exist but have conflicting management requirements.



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- 3.7 Cultural plantings may include known and potential bushland weeds.
- 3.8 Removal of Cultural Plantings that may alter: food and habitat availability; the environmental micro-climate; drainage and light patterns: soil structure; nutrient levels; or may increase the risk of propagules escaping into bushland.

## 4 FRAMEWORK

### AABR supports:

- 4.1 The preservation, enhancement and appropriate management, in terms of area, ecological integrity, connectivity and sustainability of all endangered ecological communities and species;
- 4.2 The preservation, enhancement and appropriate management of all remnant bushland;
- 4.3 Maintaining and enhancing ecological connectivity between areas of remnant bushland;
- 4.4 The management of bushland by appropriately qualified and experienced people;
- 4.5 Respect for cultural plantings and the associated legislation, regulation and planning for their management, conservation and preservation.

## 5 POLICY DETAIL

### AABR advocates:

- 5.1 Notification and co-operation with the appropriate bodies if bush regeneration work is to be carried out in areas where there are or may be Cultural Plantings.
- 5.2 Ensuring that all work carried out is in accordance with any Plan of Management or Maintenance Strategy for the Cultural Plantings.
- 5.3 Ensuring that no bush regeneration activities endanger or damage the Cultural Plantings unless specifically agreed to by the appropriate body.
- 5.4 Seeking appropriate permission and engagement of appropriately qualified persons if plants are to be lopped, pruned or removed.
- 5.5 The removal of Cultural Plantings that may negatively impact on native ecosystems.
- 5.6 Where such Cultural Plantings cannot be removed, strategies be adopted to ensure that propagules do not escape into bushland.
- 5.7 Where such Cultural Plantings are removed (eg because of senescence or disease) they not be replaced with species which may negatively impact on native ecosystems.
- 5.8 Monitoring and documentation of the management of Cultural Plantings and appropriate communication with all relevant bodies.