

do you  
even need  
to plant

what about

# natural regeneration

it's the key to restoring our bush

the three Rs of bushcare

1

## Retain first

... all the patches of native vegetation we still have. We are not able to recreate bush once it's gone - it's far too complex. Even tiny patches are important, and protecting them is priority 1.

2

## then Regenerate

... whenever we can. Damaged bush can recover with the right assistance. Even cleared or mown areas can sometimes regenerate if the original soil profile is intact. Natural regeneration preserves the unique character of each patch of bush and offers the best chance for a degraded area to become a balanced eco-system needing minimal maintenance.

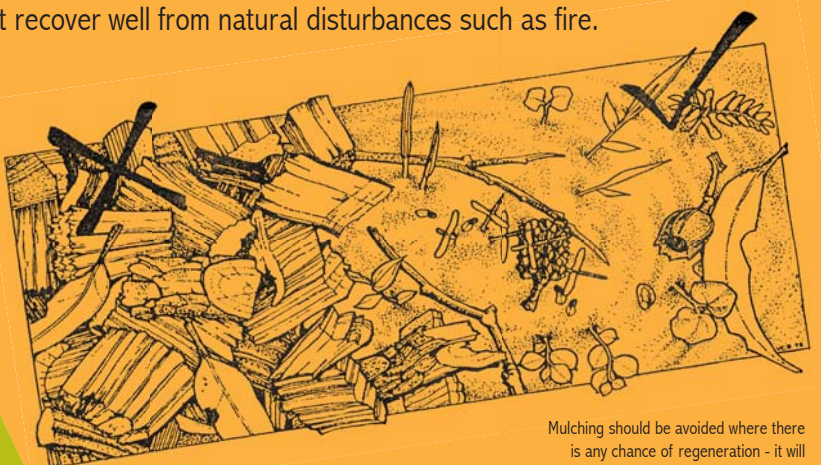
3

## Replant last

... only where there is no bush and no potential for it to naturally regenerate. Often where long-term disturbance has occurred.

Planting is often seen as a quick and easy way to restore the bush. But it can damage a bush remnant by changing its species composition and genetic make up, and undermining its ability to ever recover naturally.

Planted areas require more continuing attention than real bush and don't recover well from natural disturbances such as fire.



Mulching should be avoided where there is any chance of regeneration - it will suppress the weeds but it has the same effect on regenerating native plants.



The Australian  
Association of Bush  
Regenerators (AABR)

AABR NSW formed in 1986 to promote the study and practice of bush regeneration, and provide bush regenerators with recognition for their skills and experience.

Anyone with an interest in bushland management and conservation issues can be involved.

[www.aabr.org.au](http://www.aabr.org.au)

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