

Vegetation Management Policy:

The Vegetation Management Policy has been prepared pursuant to Part 3 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017*. Through this Policy, Council is responsible for issuing permits for the pruning or removal of tree(s) or vegetation on private land.

The Policy applies to private land as shown on Council's [online mapping](#) and in Schedule 1 of the Vegetation Management Policy. The mapping applies a highly targeted approach, based on an area's contribution to significant ecological values (e.g. habitats or significant fauna species), amenity values or their contribution to the landscape character.




Urban areas such as Hawks Nest, Tinonee and Smiths Lake are covered by the Policy as they provide habitat for significant species such as koalas and squirrel gliders. These are important species; by retaining vegetation in these locations there can be benefits for many other fauna species. The Policy applies to villages like North Arm Cove, Bundabah and Pindimar which have a 'leafy' character that significantly contributes to the amenity of these villages.

Larger environmental sites around Coomba Park, Charlotte Bay, and Boolambayte, along with Large Lot Residential estates like Failford, and estates surrounding Wingham, Hallidays Point, Old Bar and Tea Gardens have been included in the Policy. These locations contain vegetation where typically there is important habitat or environmental corridors through the targeted area, or the sites link to neighbouring bushland, State Forests or National Parks.

In total the Policy covers around 8,800 properties, with a combined coverage of around 12,000ha. The Policy does not apply to larger towns like Forster, Taree, Gloucester, Tea Gardens and Bulahdelah, which are urban centres where the focus will be on working with the community to green their neighbourhoods.

























Vegetation Management Policy – criteria for targeted approach:

Below is the criteria developed to assess whether targeted locations warranted inclusion in the Vegetation Management Policy.

CRITERIA FOR TARGETED APPROACH			
Presence of significant fauna species:	Habitat quality:	Landscape character:	Key:
High			High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of threatened species such as koala, squirrel glider, glossy black-cockatoo. Available habitat for significant fauna species including hollow bearing trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of threatened ecological communities, flora species or endangered ecological communities. Vegetation forms part of a significant creek or environmental corridor. Site adjoins or connects to adjoining bushland, Council reserve, State Forest or National Park. Hollow bearing/mature trees are present. Diversity of canopy species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations have a high level of tree canopy or vegetation cover. The location is recognised for its 'leafy' nature and character. 	
Medium			Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of significant species including native mammals, reptiles and birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of significant habitat. Contributes to creek and environmental corridors. Diversity of canopy species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations have a medium level of tree canopy or vegetation cover. Locations have landscape amenity values and a 'leafy' character. 	
Low			Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited wildlife presence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited habitat quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations have a low level of tree canopy or vegetation cover. Locations have limited landscape amenity values and 'leafy' character. 	
Notes			
The threatened species (high level) are 'umbrella species', 'flagship species' or 'iconic species', that where protected will benefit other species.	Protection of habitat for threatened or endangered species will benefit other species.	There are opportunities in the MidCoast Greening Strategy to work with communities to improve the landscape character and amenity values.	










Vegetation Management Policy – included locations:

Included location:	Presence of significant species (fauna):	Habitat quality:	Landscape character:	Overall rating: Low, Medium, High:	Reasoning:
Barrington	★	★	★	High	Barrington village (and Large Lot Residential surrounds) has a moderate to high leafy character. Existing trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Forest Red Gum. A very important koala population relies on trees in the area for habitat and movement. There are no accessible urban bushland reserves. In order to preserve the local koala population, urban trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. The R5 Large Lot Residential zone contains significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection and proper consideration in development assessment. Barrington has linkages to the vegetated Bucketts Mountains. Trees in Barrington warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Barrington R5 – Large Lot Residential	★	★	★	High	The Barrington Large Lot Residential area has a moderate leafy character. Existing trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Forest Red Gum. A very important koala population relies on trees in the area for habitat and movement. There are no accessible urban bushland reserves. In order to preserve the local koala population, urban trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. The Large Lot Residential area contains significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection and proper consideration in development assessment. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their habitat value.
Bulahdelah, Boolambayte, Mayers Flat, environmental zoned land	★	★	★	High	The environmental zoned land of these localities were recognised and applied for environmental reasons, and particularly to assist preserve buffers to protect the significant environmental and biodiversity values of the Myall Lakes National Park. Trees in the environmental zoned land occur in wooded parkland, woodland and open forest structures. They provide significant biodiversity, cultural and aesthetic values. Threatened species are expected to rely on these habitats. They also provide for corridors and connectivity from the Myall Lakes National Park to other core habitats and reserves. Given the values and the situation of the preservation of the integrity of the reserve, these areas warrant protection.
Bundabah	★	★	★	High	Bundabah has a moderate to high leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Mobile tree-dependent threatened species are present in the area, including the swift parrot. Remnant trees in the urban area include Ironbark and Forest Red Gum. There are no formal street trees, but remnant native trees occur in street verges. There is some public urban land on the foreshore. Trees in Bundabah warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Bungwahl	★	★	★	Medium	Small village of relatively few lots and located in a naturally-vegetated wider landscape, including Crown Land, National Park and vegetated freehold land. Bungwahl sits within the middle of a significant regional wildlife corridor that connects Myall Lakes National Park with Wallingat National Park and Booti Booti National Park and thus regional wildlife movements would occur in and near Bungwahl. Trees include Blackbutt, Tallowwood and Grey Gum. There are some areas that have significant landscape and amenity values particularly from Smiths Lake and Myall Lakes. Trees in Bungwahl warrant special protection for their role in connectivity for wildlife corridors, amenity and environmental benefits.
Charlotte Bay R5 – Large Lot Residential	★	★	★	High	The Charlotte Bay Large Lot Residential area has a moderate to high leafy character, and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Tree-dependent threatened species are not known to rely on these urban lands. Remnant trees in the urban area include Swamp Oak and Broad-leaved Paperbark. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. There are some accessible public urban bushland reserves, including foreshore areas, which is valuable for amenity and recreation. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Charlotte Bay, Whoota, Coomba Park	★	★	★	Medium	These areas have a moderate to high leafy character, and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Tree-dependent threatened species are not known to rely on these urban lands. Remnant trees in the urban area include Swamp Oak and Broad-leaved Paperbark. There are few formal street trees, though there is some roads which have significant vegetation in the road reserve. There are some accessible public urban bushland reserves, including foreshore areas, which are valuable for amenity and recreation. There are some areas that have significant landscape and amenity values particularly from Wallis Lake. Trees in these locations warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.

Coomba Park R5 – Large Lot Residential				Medium	The Coomba Park Large Lot Residential area is a very small area off Attunga Place. It adjoins low lying wetland and has landscape and amenity values particularly from Wallis Lake. The area contains single dwellings, with trees in a mostly woodland/wooded parkland context. The area has significant landscape and amenity values particularly from Wallis Lake. Trees present include Blackbutt as well as species of forested wetlands, such as Broad-leaved Paperbarks and Swamp Oak. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Darawank and Failford R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	These Large Lot Residential areas contain significant and valuable tree resources. Native trees present include Blackbutt, Red Mahogany and Scribbly Gum. These trees provide for threatened species values, including forest owls and squirrel gliders, as well as koalas. The wooded parkland or woodland type landscape provides for aesthetic and amenity values. These areas have a moderate to high leafy character. There are no accessible bushland reserves, except for nearby National Parks and some foreshore reserves. The preservation of trees in these estates is recognised to be very valuable and important. Trees in these areas warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Forster R5 – Large Lot Residential				Medium	The Forster Large Lot Residential area has a moderate leafy character. Existing trees are characterised by littoral rainforest species as well as Paperbarks, Swamp Mahogany and Blackbutt. Significant landscaping has also been provided of mostly exotic species (not protected by tree protection mechanisms). There are some accessible urban bushland reserves and the area is set against Booti Booti National Park. Its' green amenity enhances its marketability and value. These lands provide habitat for mobile threatened species and movement for the squirrel glider. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Gloucester R5 – Large Lot Residential				Medium	The Gloucester Large Lot Residential area has a low leafy character. Existing trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Forest Red Gum. This area contains significant Forest Red Gum / Cabbage Tree Gums. A very important koala population relies on trees in the area for habitat and movement. There are no accessible urban bushland reserves. In order to preserve the local koala population, urban trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. The Large Lot Residential area contains significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection and proper consideration in development assessment. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their habitat value.
Green Point				Medium	Green Point is a coastal village and has a moderate to high leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Tree-dependent threatened species are not known to rely on these urban lands, but species such as the squirrel glider are expected. Remnant trees in the urban area include littoral rainforest species as well as Swamp Oak, Broad-leaved Paperbark and Blackbutt. There are few formal street trees, though there are some roads which have significant vegetation in the road reserve. There are accessible public urban bushland reserves, including foreshore areas, which is valuable for amenity and recreation. Trees in private lands adjoining foreshore areas are particularly valuable. Trees in Green Point warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Hallidays Point R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Large Lot Residential areas of Hallidays Point have a moderate to high existing leafy character. Existing trees provide a wooded parkland, woodland or sometimes open forest structure, around established dwelling houses and garden / landscaped surrounds. Trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Tallowwood and Grey Gum. Threatened species such as the squirrel glider occur. A very important koala population relies on trees in this zone for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native and planted trees in road verges. There are few accessible urban bushland reserves, but the area adjoins existing National Park estate. In order to preserve the local koala population, trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. The Large Lot Residential areas contain significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection. The trees in this area provide for a valuable amenity for local residents. There is ongoing pressures from development and declining vegetation coverage in some areas. Trees in these areas warrant special protection for their habitat value and amenity values.
Hawks Nest				High	Hawks Nest has a high leafy character that is culturally and economically valuable (property values, amenity, nature recreation). Existing trees are characterised by remnant native species, such as Blackbutt and Swamp Mahogany. A very important koala population relies on trees in the urban zone for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. There are significant urban bushland reserves including vegetated foreshores, which are valuable for amenity and nature-based recreation. Trees in Hawks Nest warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.
Minimbah R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Large Lot Residential areas of Minimbah have a low to moderate existing leafy character. Existing trees provide a wooded parkland or woodland character. Trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Tallowwood and Grey Gum and include hollow-bearing trees. Threatened species such as the brush-tailed phascogale rely on trees in this zone for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are some occurrences of native and planted trees in road verges. There are no accessible urban bushland reserves. In order to preserve the local threatened species populations, trees and wider habitat spaces and corridors need to be secured. The Large Lot Residential area contains significant areas of threatened species habitat and requires protection. The trees

					in this area provide for a valuable amenity for residents. There are ongoing pressures from development and declining vegetation coverage in some areas. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.
Mitchells Island R5 – Large Lot Residential				Medium	The Mitchells Island Large Lot Residential area has a moderate to high existing leafy character. Existing trees provide a wooded parkland, woodland or sometimes open forest structure. Trees are characterised by Blackbutt and Grey Gum. Threatened species are likely to occur, but there is little information available. There are few formal street trees. There are no accessible urban bushland reserves, except for small areas of nearby National Park estate. The trees in this area provide for a valuable amenity for residents. Preservation of the character of this area is highly valuable. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their habitat value and amenity values.
Nabiac				High	Nabiac has a moderate to high leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Tree-dependent threatened species occur, including brush-tailed phascogale and squirrel glider. Remnant trees in the urban area include Forest Red Gum. There are some formal street trees. There are very few public urban bushland reserves, other than Bullock Wharf Reserve which is valuable for amenity and recreation. Trees in Nabiac warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Nabiac R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Nabiac Large Lot Residential area has a moderate to high leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Tree-dependent threatened species occur, including brush-tailed phascogale, masked owl and squirrel glider. Remnant trees in the Large Lot Residential area include Blackbutt and Forest Red Gum. There are some formal street trees. There is very minor public nearby urban bushland reserves, other than Bullock Wharf Reserve, which is valuable for amenity and recreation. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Nerong				Medium	Nerong has a moderate leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. This village is located within the context of Myall Lakes National Park. Threatened species values are not well known but habitats that are likely to be valuable for some species are expected. Remnant trees in the urban area include dry forest types such as Blackbutt, Spotted Gum, Ironbark and White Mahogany. There are no formal street trees, but remnant native trees occur in street verges. Trees in Nerong warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
North and South Pindimar				High	These areas have a moderate to high leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and habitat for biodiversity. Mobile tree-dependent threatened species occur, including koala. Trees on the foreshore contribute to shoreline stability. Remnant trees in the urban area include Smooth-barked Apple, Swamp Mahogany and Broad-leaved Paperbark. Weed trees (pines) do occur in these locations. There are no formal street trees, but remnant native trees occur in street verges. There is very minor public urban land, though there is some foreshore land. Trees in North and South Pindimar warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
North Arm Cove				High	North Arm Cove has a moderate to high leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Mobile tree-dependent threatened species occur, including swift parrot, koala and glossy black-cockatoo. Remnant trees in the urban area include Forest Oak, Ironbark and Forest Red Gum. Trees on the foreshore are valuable for shoreline stability. There are no formal street trees, but remnant native trees occur in street verges. There is limited public urban land on the foreshore. Trees in North Arm Cove warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Old Bar R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Large Lot Residential areas of Old Bar are under urban settlement pressures. They have a moderate to high existing leafy character. Existing trees provide a wooded parkland, woodland or sometimes open forest structure. Trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Tallowwood and Grey Gum. Threatened species such as the brush-tailed phascogale and koala occur. A very important koala population relies on trees in this area for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are some occurrences of native and planted trees in road verges. There are few accessible urban bushland reserves, but the area adjoins existing National Park estate. In order to preserve the local koala population, trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. The Large Lot Residential areas contain significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection. The trees in this area provide for a valuable amenity for residents. There is ongoing pressures from development and declining vegetation coverage in some areas. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.
Pacific Palms				High	Pacific Palms has a moderate to high leafy character that is culturally and economically valuable (property values, amenity, nature recreation). Existing trees are characterised by remnant native species, such as Blackbutt, Banksia and Cabbage Tree Palms. Threatened species populations are known in trees in the urban zone (e.g. micro-bats). There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. Trees on sand dunes provide for landform stability. There are significant urban bushland reserves including vegetated foreshores, which are valuable for amenity and nature-based recreation. Council has delivered a balanced conservation and development outcome via an amendment to the local planning instrument for Pacific Palms, which has included additions of land to the public reserve system. Trees in Pacific Palms warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.

Rainbow Flat R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Rainbow Flat Large Lot Residential area has a moderate to high existing leafy character. Existing trees provide a wooded parkland, woodland or sometimes open forest structure, around established dwelling houses and garden / landscaped surrounds. Trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Tallowwood and Grey Gum. A very important koala population relies on trees in this area for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native and planted trees in road verges. There are few accessible urban bushland reserves, but the area adjoins existing National Park and State Forest estate. In order to preserve the local koala population, trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. The Large Lot Residential area contains significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection. The trees in this area provide for a valuable amenity for local residents. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their habitat value and amenity values.
Seal Rocks				Medium	Seal Rocks has a high leafy character that is culturally and economically valuable (property values, amenity, nature recreation). Existing trees are characterised by remnant native species, such as Blackbutt and littoral rainforest species. No threatened species are known to rely on the area, although the threatened Magenta Lilly Pilly occurs. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. Seal Rocks is set within the Myall Lakes National Park, which is of very high value for biodiversity, amenity and nature-based recreation. Seal Rocks is regarded for its scenic amenity and landscape values, including its littoral rainforests and vegetated headlands. Trees in Seal Rocks warrant special protection for their role in connectivity for wildlife corridors, amenity and environmental benefits.
Smiths Lake and Tarbuck Bay				High	Smiths Lake and Tarbuck Bay have a high leafy character that is culturally and economically valuable (property values, amenity, nature recreation). Existing trees are characterised by remnant native species, such as Blackbutt, Flooded Gum, Tallowwood, Grey Gum and Cabbage Tree Palms. Threatened species populations (koala, yellow-bellied glider) rely on trees in the urban zone for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. There are significant urban bushland reserves including vegetated foreshores, which are valuable for amenity and nature-based recreation. Council has recently secured a peri-urban greenspace, which has significant cultural and environmental values and assists bushfire management provisions. Trees in these areas warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.
Smiths Lake R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Smiths Lake Large Lot Residential area has a high leafy character that is culturally and economically valuable (property values, amenity, nature recreation). Existing trees are characterised by remnant native species, such as Blackbutt, Flooded Gum, Tallowwood, Grey Gum and Cabbage Tree Palms. Threatened species populations (koala, yellow-bellied glider) rely on trees in the urban zone for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. There are significant urban bushland reserves including vegetated foreshores, which are valuable for amenity and nature-based recreation. Council has recently secured a peri-urban greenspace, which has significant cultural and environmental values and assists bushfire management provisions. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.
Stroud R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	Protection should be applied to the largest area Large Lot Residential known as ‘Listening Hill’, as there are important threatened species and amenity issues in this patch, which should be preserved. Tree protections in the western Large Lot Residential area are dealt with by a development consent that includes tree controls. The south-eastern R5 Large Lot Residential area is mostly cleared. The largest area Large Lot Residential known as ‘Listening Hill’ has a moderate to high leafy character, and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Tea Gardens R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Tea Gardens Large Lot Residential area has a moderate to high leafy character. The local koala population is rarely observed in Tea Gardens. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. There are significant urban bushland reserves including vegetated foreshores, which are valuable for amenity and nature-based recreation. Council has secured a bushland reserve in the peri-urban matrix (Kore Kore Creek Reserve and North Shearwater Reserves) and the Parry’s Cove proposal intends to deliver a significant urban bushland reserve that will further establish a valuable green-space at the periphery of the Tea Gardens village. This will characterise the leafy character of this village rather than trees on private lots. There is important habitat on the Large Lot Residential zoned land that adjoins public reserves. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Tinonee				High	Tinonee village has a low to moderate leafy character, particularly in the central and eastern sections. Existing trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Tallowwood and Forest Red Gum. A very important koala population relies on trees in the urban zone for habitat and movement. There are few formal street trees, but there are some occurrences of native and planted trees in street verges. There are a few accessible urban bushland reserves. In order to preserve the local koala population, urban trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be protected and secured. Trees in Tinonee warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.

Tinonee R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Tinonee Large Lot Residential area has a moderate leafy character. Existing trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Tallowwood and Forest Red Gum. A very important koala population relies on trees in the urban area for habitat and movement. There are few accessible urban bushland reserves. In order to preserve the local koala population, urban trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. There is native trees along the edges of the roads. The Large Lot Residential area contains significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.
Tiona				Medium	Tiona has a high leafy character and this contributes to the amenity and the habitat for biodiversity. Tree-dependent threatened species are not known to rely on these urban lands. Remnant trees in the urban area include Swamp Oak and Broad-leaved Paperbark. The Lakes Way has some significant vegetation in the road reserve. There are some accessible public urban bushland reserves, including foreshore areas, which is valuable for amenity and recreation. There are some areas that have significant landscape and amenity values particularly from Wallis Lake. Trees in Tiona warrant special protection for their amenity and environmental benefits.
Wingham R5 – Large Lot Residential				High	The Wingham Large Lot Residential area has a moderate leafy character. Existing trees are characterised by preferred koala food trees, such as Tallowwood and Forest Red Gum. An important koala population relies on trees in the urban area for habitat and movement. There are few accessible urban bushland reserves. In order to preserve the local koala population, urban trees and wider koala safe spaces and corridors need to be secured. There are few formal street trees, but there are occurrences of native trees in street verges. The Large Lot Residential area contains significant areas of occupied koala habitat and requires protection. Trees in this area warrant special protection for their amenity value, habitat value and environmental benefits.