



You can become a bush friendly neighbour by...

- Keeping your cats inside at night
- Making sure your cat is wearing a collar with a bell
- Microchipping, desexing and registering your pets
- Undertaking natural pest control in your garden and not using chemical fertilizers
- Planting local native plant species
- Conserving water around the home
- Reporting all sightings of feral animals to Council
- Never dumping garden waste or rubbish in the bush
- Reducing fire hazards around the home
- Not encroaching into adjacent bushland
- Joining a local bushcare group
- Washing your car on the lawn

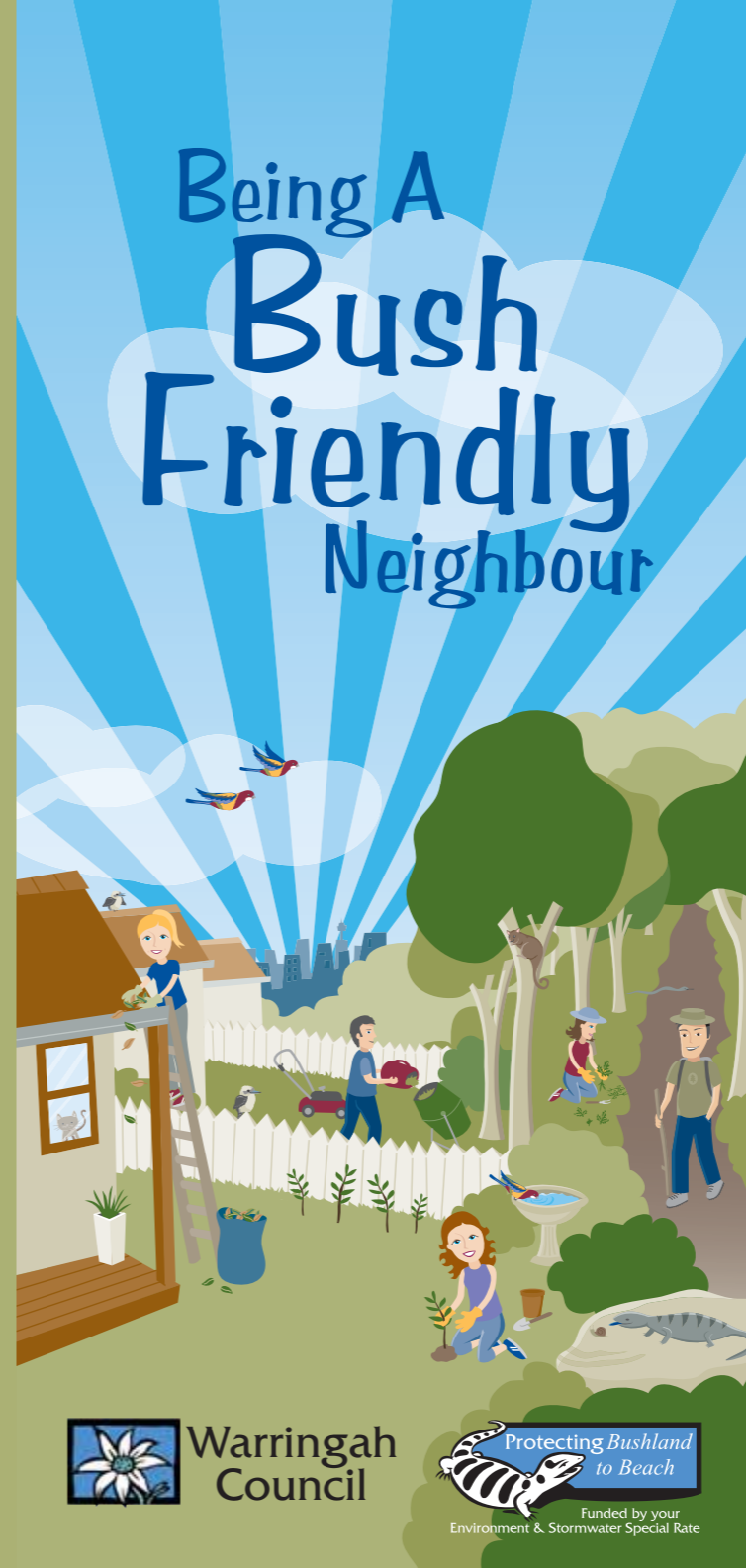
For more Information on Bushland Issues contact Warringah Council on **9942 2472**

Or visit us at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

If you want to become a Warringah Council Friends of the Bush Volunteer call **9942 2439**



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Being A Bush Friendly Neighbour



Excluding National Park areas, there is almost 3000 hectares of bushland in Warringah. This bushland provides attractive settings for residents, important recreational areas, and vital habitat for local wildlife. These bushland areas also protect our soil from erosion, improve water quality and help clean the air we breathe. Warringah Council is working hard to protect, maintain and enhance these valuable bushland areas, but we need your help by being a bush friendly neighbour.

Enjoy the Bush but protect it when using it.

Keep to designated tracks when bush walking and bike riding. Making new tracks can spread weeds, cause erosion and damage native plants. Always take your rubbish home with you and never pick the native flowers as they are protected. Campfires are prohibited in all Council reserves. Ensure cigarette butts are extinguished and carried out of the bushland. Leave dead wood in the bush as it is home to birds and animals.



Encroachment onto Bushland

It is an offence to dump rubbish or green waste into bushland. Green waste includes grass and garden clippings, containing extra nutrients that are harmful to native bushland. Garden waste also contains seeds and plant material, which can spread rapidly through the bush competing with native plants and

destroying the bushland. Instead you should use Council's monthly vegetation pick-ups. It is also illegal to clear any vegetation or erect structures in bushland.



Feral Animal Control

The most common pest species found in our area are foxes, rabbits and cats. Foxes and cats are efficient hunters and predate on native wildlife. Rabbits are considered pests because they destroy native vegetation and displace native animals. You can help to discourage feral animals around the home by feeding domestic pets inside and clearing all food scraps and garbage from outside the home. It is important to remember to never feed feral animals. All sightings of foxes, rabbits and feral cats must be reported to Council on **9942 2728**.



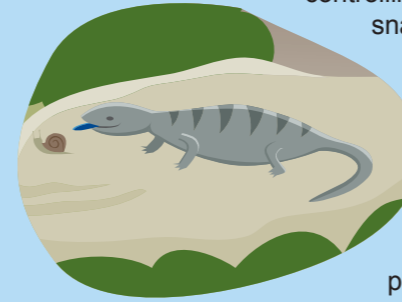
Responsible Pet Care

By providing adequate shelter and keeping your pets under control you are helping to protect native wildlife, which commonly feed at night. As well as providing companionship, it is important to remember that cats are hunters, contributing to the decline in native animal populations. Always keep your cat inside at night and put collars on them with bells. Keep dogs on leashes in bushland areas and ensure they are wearing collars with tags showing owners contact details. Microchip, desex and register your pets with Council. Council has designated a number of bushland reserves as Wildlife Protection Areas. All cats are prohibited from these areas because they are significant wildlife habitat. Council regularly undertakes cat removal programs from these areas.



Using Friendly Pesticides and Fertilisers

Pesticides and fertilisers can be toxic to small children and animals, and can end up in our waterways. Use them sparingly and never before rain or adjacent to creeks and waterways. You can encourage natural pest controllers in your garden, such as Blue Tongue Lizards, Leaf Tail Geckos and Bandicoots. These native animals assist in controlling pests such as snails, cockroaches, slugs, lawn beetles and spiders. You can create habitat in your garden for these native animals by providing rocks and logs for them to live in.



Fire Hazard Reduction

If you live adjacent to bushland, it is important to minimise the fire hazards around your home. This includes regular removal of twigs, bark and leaf litter from within your yard and regularly cleaning out gutters. Keep lawns short and green and ensure flammable and dangerous substances are stored correctly. Tree branches, leaves, prunings and grass clippings can be collected through Council's monthly vegetation pick-ups.



Planting The Right Plants in your Garden

Local native plants are great in the garden. They establish quickly and have a high survival rate. They require no fertilizers, minimal maintenance and very little watering during and after establishment. Planting local native species helps to establish bushland corridors, which provide shelter and food for our native birds and wildlife. Contact Council on **9942 2472** for a list of suitable local native plants for your area.



Illegal tree removal

It is illegal to remove, cut down or destroy any tree that is on public land. On private land, Council consent is required to cut down, prune or remove, most trees or shrubs exceeding 5m in height and 10m crown width.

For a list of exempt species or any further information Contact Council on **9942 2741**.

