



## Managing vegetation and weeds after a fire

Bush fires create conditions that favour the establishment of weeds, which can prevent native plants from re-establishing and thriving. After a bush fire, it's important to manage weed growth in bushland on your property. MidCoast Council has ramped-up our weed control program to protect fire affected areas from weed invasion. Acting now on private land will help prevent major infestations from destroying bushland values.

Australian native plants are adapted to recover after bushfires, but will take time before your local bush looks like the healthy vegetation community it once was. Amazingly, within weeks of the fires trees and grasses are starting to re-sprout. Over the next few years, most of the original shrubs and trees will regrow from epicormic buds beneath the bark, rootstock or from seeds stored in the soil.

For at least the first few months post-fire it is best to observe the recovery process and allow the bushland to regenerate itself. In some situations, where natural regeneration is not progressing well, the planting of native vegetation or direct seeding may be required to stabilise the soil and assist the natural regeneration process.

If you are planting in recovering bushland, only use local provenance plants and seeds to maintain the integrity of the bushland. Plant appropriate species that belong in your native plant community.



### Why is controlling weeds so important?

Weeds spread easily and can hinder the regeneration of native plants and wildlife populations. It's important to control them as soon as possible, to prevent them from spreading to neighbouring properties and native bushland. While many native plant species and desirable garden plants survive bush fires, their ability to re-establish, thrive, and re-seed is reduced by the presence of weeds that aggressively compete for water, light, and soil nutrients. The cleared post-bush fire landscape is an opportunity to control weeds while they are visible and before they start to spread.

### Find out more:

Contact MidCoast Council for advice on weed control and vegetation recovery after fire. Ph 6592 7222; Email [council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au)

Visit these web sites:

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Natural Regeneration <http://aabr.org.au/images/stories/resources/posters/NaturalRegeneration060612.pdf>

Dept. of Agriculture: Farms after fire [www.agric.wa.gov.au/fire/bush-and-revegetation-recovery-farmsafter-fire](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/fire/bush-and-revegetation-recovery-farmsafter-fire)

Hunter Local Land Services: weeds and drought factsheet [https://hunter.lis.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/803294/A3-weeds-and-drought-factsheetfinal.pdf](https://hunter.lis.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/803294/A3-weeds-and-drought-factsheetfinal.pdf)