



# Cleaning up or building on your property?

## Careful—that native vegetation may be protected!

Maintaining a property requires all sorts of different tasks—but we urge residents to contact Council before removing or trimming any native vegetation.

Native vegetation includes trees, shrubs and even grasses and herbs on the ground. These plants may be protected by any number of planning controls including significant landscape, environmental significance, vegetation protection and heritage overlays. There may also be agreements or covenants on land titles relating to vegetation protection, and triggers under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

## It's easy to do the right thing:

Before you remove or modify any native vegetation **CALL 5422 0333**, or fill in an online form via the QR code or web link **[mrcs.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation](http://mrcs.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation)**



Our stunning natural environment makes the Macedon Ranges special, and we all play an important part in looking after it.

## Is a permit required?

If you are unsure whether your actions involving native vegetation require a permit, call us on **5422 0333** or visit our website to fill in an online form **[mrcs.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation](http://mrcs.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation)**. This could save you time and money down the track.

## Some examples of property clean-up that may require a permit include:

- Using heavy machinery to clean up fallen trees: if property clean-up exposes the soil you may be damaging the native vegetation.
- Clearing away understory to sow grass under trees.
- Any tree or shrub removal.

## Victorian Government guidelines

The Victorian Government's policy for native vegetation is outlined in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation. This is a state-wide document and must be considered by Council when it assesses proposals to remove native vegetation.

The guidelines seek to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. They also assist in the protection of vital habitat for insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

*Unauthorised clearance of native vegetation is illegal under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme and offenders may be prosecuted and receive heavy penalties.*



**Macedon Ranges**  
Shire Council

**Strategic Planning & Environment**