



Hamilton Park Residents

Our bushland is undergoing positive change!

As discussed at our last AGM, Hamilton Park have been successful in obtaining an environmental grant to undertake ecological thinning as part of the Bush for Birds Project. Ecological thinning is a key recommendation of our Common Land Management Plan.

What's happening?

Ecological thinning is a research and science backed method that involves the selective removal of trees within a dense patch of bushland in order to promote the growth of large old trees, which are an important habitat resource for wildlife.

Our project sites have been subject to stringent ecological assessment, endorsed by an evaluation committee (with representatives from Trust for Nature (TFN), NECMA, DELWP and Landcare), and approved by NECMA.

Why is it happening?

In short, the assessment found that despite the bushland areas looking healthy they are in fact not. These areas have been highly modified over time with a large number of smaller thinner trees competing for limited resources. This leads to an increase in bushfire threat and a decline in wildlife. Benefits of the thinning project include;

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| • Increase development of large old trees | • Gives us the ability to conduct cool burns |
| • Decreases the threat of bushfire | • Increase levels of birds and other animals |
| • Improve habitat for endangered species | • Easier management of weeds |
| • Improves soil structure and water retention | • Increase levels of ground cover species |

What next?

Thinning will be conducted in early August by an accredited and experienced team and is expected to take 5 days in total. We recognise that ecological thinning **may be a confronting sight** for some, so we have organised a small demonstration for learning, questions and queries.

Demonstration session (weather permitting)

Trust for Nature staff will provide a demonstration and be on hand to answer questions. The demonstration will take place near the Community Hub in Kurrajong Lane – please note that chainsaws will be in operation so please make sure you keep clear of the marked area.

Friday 23rd July 1pm to 4.30pm – you are welcome to drop in anytime during these hours

Want to know more?

Links to all project documentation such as the thinning management plan and the conservation work exemption (an exemption to remove vegetation) can be found at the Hamilton Park website under [not sure where yet]. Please forward any queries or questions to the board at hpboard@hamiltonpark.org.au

