

Garden Suburb: Protecting bushland and wildlife for future generations

Garden Suburb is a thoughtfully planned development located on Myall Road, just 20 minutes southwest of Newcastle CBD. This project balances delivery of new housing with environmental conservation. Approximately 70% of the site – around 28 hectares - is preserved as a biodiversity stewardship site, providing a safe haven for wildlife. This project seeks to demonstrate how urban spaces can coexist with nature.



Biodiversity stewardship site

The biodiversity stewardship site at Garden Suburb is a permanent conservation area managed under an agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. This ensures long-term funding and protection for the site. The stewardship site plays a critical role in preserving native ecosystems, including six plant community types and habitats for endangered species such as the Powerful Owl, Squirrel Glider, and Black-eyed Susan.

Key benefits include:

- habitat preservation – protecting vital ecosystems for threatened plants and animals
- wildlife corridors – enabling safe movement for animals between bushland areas
- community access – walking trails allow residents to enjoy nature while protecting sensitive areas

- a rehabilitated bushland – providing learning opportunities for local schools
- removal of dumped materials and rubbish – giving the bushland an opportunity to regenerate and reduce harmful waste affecting native wildlife and native plant species
- installation of temporary fencing around key restoration areas for up to five years – allowing the bush to regenerate and stabilise
- provision of funding for the management and improvement for the site – providing local employment.



Once the biodiversity stewardship site is rehabilitated it will be actively managed with measures like ecological burns, feral animal control, and vegetation monitoring to maintain its health and biodiversity.

Stage	
	Site boundary
	Private housing sites
	Road
	Stormwater basins
	Affordable housing sites

Endangered wildlife

Urban areas are vital for conserving many of Australia's threatened species. For some species, urban areas continue to provide critical habitat. This highlights the importance of protecting bushland within developments like Garden Suburb.

At Garden Suburb, measures are in place to protect endangered wildlife and maintain biodiversity:

- high risk potholes caused by mine subsidence have been remediated and the surrounding areas have been rehabilitated
- nest boxes have been installed to support hollow-dependent species such as Powerful Owls, possums and Squirrel Gliders so they continue to have safe nesting sites
- mature trees and hollow logs removed during construction are being re-used as ground habitats for small mammals, reptiles and insects
- regular monitoring programs are conducted by ecologists to assess the long-term health of local ecosystems. They track wildlife populations and evaluate the success of conservation efforts, such as pest control and habitat restoration.

By protecting bushland at Garden Suburb, critical habitats for native plants and animals are safeguarded against urban development pressures. This commitment to conservation not only preserves biodiversity but also ensures that future generations can enjoy thriving natural environments close to home.



Nesting box for small mammals.



Planting of native species as part of site remediation.



Native species: Black-eyed Susan.

Community role

Everyone can contribute to the long-term health of the biodiversity stewardship site. Community members are encouraged to report issues like invasive species or illegal activities, such as dumping, that may harm the bushland. This helps maintain the site's ecological integrity and ensures that it continues to provide valuable habitat for wildlife and recreational access for the community. By supporting responsible management practices, residents can contribute to preserving this precious environment for future generations. [Report illegal dumping at ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au](https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/report-illegal-dumping)

Contact the team

To learn more about the project and register for project updates, contact us:

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Scan the QR code or visit the webpage for more information about the project and FAQs:

