

Tree Removals Lower Field River

FAQs

Will any trees in the grassy recreation areas that provide shade be removed?

The removals will not include trees in recreation areas where there is turf or lawn present, these shade trees will remain for all to use.

Trees are good why should they be removed?

Trees are good but the trees to be removed have existing structural defects that have reduced their useful life expectancy. The shrubs to be removed are proclaimed pest species or aggressive woody weeds.

Don't the trees provide habitat for birds?

Yes some birds can use the existing trees but generally these birds are aggressive 'expander' species like Magpies, Noisy Miners and Wattlebirds. Experience at the Lower Field River has shown that when we replace the weedy trees with local species we attract rare woodland birds like the Golden Whistler, Blue Wrens, Singing Honeyeaters and the endangered Black-chinned Honey Eater. In addition the weed trees stop the native grasses growing. Native grasses attract insects and have edible seeds both of which are used by birds for food. Replacing weed trees with local tree species will give a chance for native grasses to grow.

Aren't there rules about trees that stop them being removed?

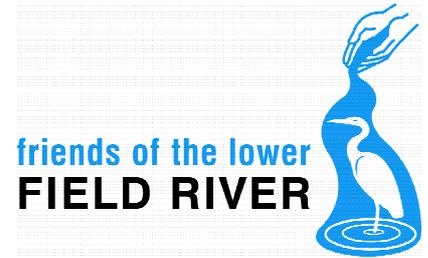
We are working with the City of Marion who are aware of the legal obligations of tree removal and are providing us with guidance consistent with the City of Marion's Tree Management Framework for trees in reserves.

The Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos use the pine trees will they be removed?

Only three Pine trees are to be removed. Two of these are causing rocks to fall onto a path and need removal for safety reasons. The other specimen has significant structural flaws that necessitate removal. There are still well over 50 pine trees remaining in the reserve and the Friends of Lower Field River have been actively planting Native Pines, Golden Wattle and Drooping Sheoak which are suitable food replacement trees for Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos.

If the trees are removed what will be planted and who will look after it?

The area where trees are to be removed will be replanted with local trees and shrub species, over 1000 plants will be put in the ground and in two sections mature red gums in 45 litre pots will be planted to offset the initial loss of vegetation. The group has actively demonstrated over the last ten years their commitment to the reserve and the overall greening of the area and will work with the City of Marion to maintain the area.



Exactly how many trees are being removed?

In total there are 13 trees and 24 tall shrubs being removed. The details are presented below:

- 2 *Melaleuca armillaris* (Honey Myrtle) - a tall shrub to be removed. One of these is already dead and the other is nearing the end of its life expectancy. There have been numerous other native shrubs planted nearby already as replacements and there will be further plants put in to replace them.
- 4 *Melaleuca nesophila* (Little Nessy) - shrubs to be removed near the planting site on the corner of Osprey and Cormorant. The shrubs are declining in health and need to be replaced.
- 7 *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) - a weedy tree species that has aggressive root runners are to be removed. The chosen Swamp Oaks have been over-run with creepers and have structural flaws. Once these are removed, other trees planted nearby two years ago will be given an opportunity to grow.
- 3 *Schinus molle* (Chilean Pepper) trees to be removed. These are an invasive species sending up numerous runners into the river and along the banks. It is proposed to replace these trees with mature specimens of River Red Gum in 45 litre pots. Ten mature trees will be planted as replacements for this removal.
- 3 *Pinus halapensis* (Aleppo Pines) to be removed, two are causing damage to a small cliff and pushing rocks down onto the footpath. There are approximately 60 mature Aleppo Pines in the reserve with the removal being less than 5% of the trees present. They are also being replaced prior to removal with Native Pine trees.
- 18 *Acacia saligna* (Sallow Wattle) shrubs to be removed. This is an aggressive woody weed and most of the specimens are old, structurally deficient, diseased and in some cases already dead. These specimens are mostly around the bridge on Cormorant Drive. Further plantings will occur in the areas around the bridge of lower shrub species similar to the existing planting on the corner of Cormorant and Osprey. Extensive replacements of a similar non weedy species, Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) have already been planted in the reserve. This is Australia's floral emblem and is used extensively by local wildlife.



Golden Whistler

(Pachycephala pectoralis)

The Golden Whistler is a woodland bird species that uses River Red Gums.

Tree replacement programs such as this one provide habitat more suited to species such as this.