

Remnant vegetation protection- we are all responsible

HANDY HINT

The most effective method for protecting remnants is to fence it off and exclude stock

do I have remnant vegetation?

'Remnant vegetation' is the native vegetation remaining following widespread clearance of the landscape. Stands of remnant vegetation can be comprised of trees, shrubs, grasses and ground dwelling plants.

what are the threats?

South Gippsland was originally cleared of native vegetation for agricultural use of the fertile soils.

The remaining remnant vegetation is fragmented in small isolated patches throughout the landscape. Often these patches are all that remains in an area to base future revegetation projects on, and if they disappear, we have lost an ecosystem with lots of complex interactions that can never be completely replaced. These remnants are often exposed to numerous pressures, including livestock, weeds, pest animals, wind, nutrients and chemical pollution carried in water run-off.

These pressures penetrate remnant stands, degrading vegetation and decreasing its habitat value. Our remnant vegetation is currently declining rapidly in extent and quality.

why look after remnants?

Protecting remnant vegetation can provide significant economic and environmental benefits.

Protecting remnant vegetation will help to:

- provide habitat for native plants and animals
- protect soil from erosion
- provide livestock and crop shelter
- landscape aesthetic appeal
- manage water tables and ameliorate salinity
- control pest insects by providing habitat for predatory insects
- provide more natural resources such as native seed
- provide outdoor education resources

what can I do?

The most effective method for protecting remnants is to fence it off and exclude stock. Other important management techniques include:

- Link remnants through the establishment of vegetation corridors
- Control pest plant and animal populations within and around remnants
- Increase and enhance existing remnants by direct seeding or tubestock planting
- Where appropriate and with advice from your local CFA, conduct controlled burning to encourage natural regeneration in some vegetation types

Design by Graphically Speaking, 5668 8226

South Gippsland Landcare Network

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is made up of 22 landcare groups within South Gippsland. Landcare encourages land stewardship and aims to improve the long term productivity and sustainability of our land.

If you would like to become involved in Landcare within South Gippsland you can contact us on 5662 5759 or email us on sgln@landcare.net

