

City of Hobart

Policy

Title: Queens Domain Vegetation Management Policy

Category: Bushland Reserves

Date Last Adopted: *new policy*

1. Objectives

To provide a clear direction for the restoration, maintenance and protection of the significant biodiversity values of Queens Domain.

2. Background

Despite a long history of development, Queens Domain retains nationally significant remnants of its once extensive grassy woodland landscape.

Amongst the six native plant communities mapped on the Domain, two are significantly rare:

- Lowland *Themeda triandra* grasslands are listed as Critically Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and
- *Eucalyptus globulus* forest and woodlands are listed as Threatened under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

The Queens Domain has a unique suite of flora and fauna species as it hosts the only native grassland community within the City of Hobart. The vegetation communities of Queens Domain includes approximately 170 native plant species of which two are listed under the EPBC Act and a further nineteen are listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA Act) and supports five nationally and state listed threatened fauna species.

The City of Hobart values its biodiversity and will maintain, manage, enhance, protect and promote them as an asset to the City as outlined in this policy and through the development of a biodiversity action plan.



This policy will provide direction for the City of Hobart's planning and decision-making and provide clear guidance for on ground works to actively manage the significant vegetation of Queens Domain.

3. Policy

The City of Hobart is committed to:

1. Retain, maintain, manage, enhance and protect the biodiversity values of Queens Domain.
2. Actively mitigate any threats to biodiversity values, informed by operational plans and ongoing monitoring.
3. Maintain the aesthetic landscape and the structure and floristics of open grassland and grassy woodland through burning and the selective removal of shrub species to limit the conversion of threatened vegetation communities to low closed-forest dominated by She oak, *Allocasuarina verticillata*.
4. Advocate and critically assess development proposals which will disrupt ecological functions based on habitat connectivity at a localised context.
5. Critically assess any removal of native vegetation with a view of achieving the best possible biodiversity outcomes.
6. Recognise that in an increasingly fragmented environment, intact units of native vegetation play an important role in habitat connectivity on the Queens Domain.
7. Ensure awareness of the natural values of the Queens Domain and relevant legislation in order to make informed decisions that provide biodiversity protection and improvement of the natural environment.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) is federal environmental legislation that provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places as matters of national environmental significance.

Nature Conservation Act 2002 regulates the conservation and protection of flora, fauna and geological diversity within Tasmania.

The *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* sets out special protection measures for threatened flora and fauna that are considered to be endangered, vulnerable or rare in Tasmania.

Responsible Officer:	Director Parks and City Amenity
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