
Trees and plants

Both in Australia and New Zealand trees are cleared on a large scale every year. In fact many more trees are cleared every year than are planted. Australia has one of the highest rates of tree clearing in the Western world – much of this is for subdivisions and housing.

Establishing and caring for trees and plants is a very important part of property management. Trees and plants provide many vital functions both on a micro and macro scale. Aim for approximately 30 per cent of your land to be vegetated with trees.

The benefits of trees and plants

With careful selection and placement, trees and plants can do all of the following:

- provide shade and shelter from sun, wind and dust
- slow down fire
- give privacy from neighbours
- provide habitat for wild animals including birdlife
- add value to the property by creating an attractive environment in which to live
- modify the climate of a property and in turn other plants, animals and people on the property will all benefit
- provide feed for stock
- give natural pest protection
- are an aid to drainage and erosion control
- reduce the effect of global warming.

Trees and plants as habitat

Trees and plants are habitat for numerous species of insects, mammals and birds. There are many benefits of attracting various species, some examples are: