

# The Shire of Denmark

## Shire Reserves

The Shire of Denmark manages over 120 reserves. Of these, 80 have natural resource management (NRM) requirements to maintain biodiversity and environmental values.

The Shire of Denmark is working to combat threats to biodiversity. This includes the development and implementation of reserve management plans, the development of an Environmental Code of Practice to ensure protection of biodiversity values from operational disturbance activities, and many other initiatives. The Shire of Denmark aims to take a landscape ecology approach to managing the terrestrial environment. In this way, environments are managed with consideration given to surrounding areas and the interactions that occur across the landscape.

## Friends of Reserves Strategy

The Shire of Denmark values the contributions made by volunteers and has developed a Friends of Reserves Strategy aiming to ensure that volunteer bush care activities are undertaken safely and to align with NRM principles.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/councilservices/naturalresourcesmanagement.file/> or contact the Shire of Denmark NRM Officer (08) 9848 0300 or [enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au)



Shire dieback management signage Photo: Yvette Caruso

## The Denmark Environment Centre

is proud to support bushland conservation through education, advocacy and research.

For information on becoming a member phone 9848 1644 or visit us: 33-35 Strickland St DENMARK.

## Denmark Weed Action Group

### Plant Denmark Natives!

Get assistance to manage weeds on your property. The Denmark Weed Action Group can provide you with advice on what to plant.



Watsonia Removal Photo: Diane Harwood

Sensible steps for you to follow in your garden:

- ➔ Work from good (ie: weed free) areas toward bad (weedy) areas
- ➔ Make minimum disturbance
- ➔ Allow the regeneration of native plants to dictate the rate of weed removal
- ➔ Allow time to follow up on large weed infestations. Often removing parent plants creates light and space for weed seedlings.

Visit DWAG at: 33 Strickland St DENMARK.

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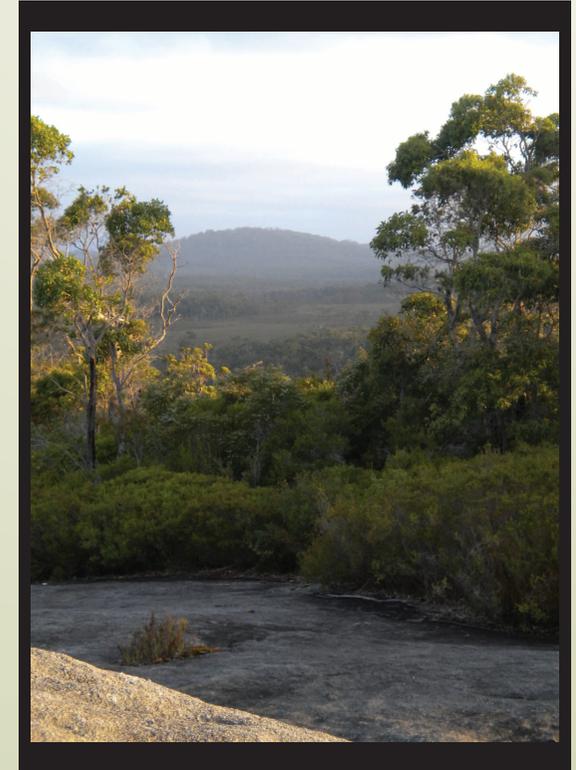


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Treasure Our Terrestrial Environment

# Conserving Denmark's Terrestrial Environment



Terrestrial Diversity. Photo: Rosie Smith

Terrestrial values

Terrestrial environments under threat

Conserving these areas for their intrinsic value and for future generations.



*Podoserpula pusio* Photo: Katrina Syme

### What do we mean by Terrestrial?

The natural terrestrial environment includes all of the earth's land area (surface and subsurface).

### Denmark - Biodiversity Hotspot!

Denmark and the surrounding environment lies within a world biodiversity HOTSPOT! The south-west of Western Australia is identified as one of the 34 biodiversity hotspots on the planet.

To qualify as a hotspot, a region must meet two strict criteria: it must contain at least 1,500 species of vascular plants as endemics (plants found no-where else in the world), and it has to have lost at least 70% of its original habitat.

### Threats to Native Bushland

**Invasive Species** - Many garden plants are extremely invasive and out-compete naturally occurring plants in local bushland, depriving the native fauna of habitat and food. Introduced animals (eg: foxes, feral cats and pigs) destroy habitat, spread diseases, predate on, and compete with native animals.

**Dieback** -Is the effect, on native woody plants, of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a water mould which lives in the soil and attacks plants' roots. Eventually plants cannot take up the nutrients and water they need and start to die from the top downward.

**Climate Change** - The effects of human induced global Climate Change due to our reliance on fossil fuels are thought to be impacting upon and reducing biodiversity at an exponential rate.

**Wildfire** - Poses a threat to biodiversity. In the great southern region, vegetation species have adapted to cope with fire - some have mechanisms allowing them to regenerate prolifically after a fire event. These include epicormic buds, lignotubers, hard fruit and seeds which are triggered to open or germinate with heat and smoke.



Above: Native bracken fern is a pioneer plant and is often the first to return to the landscape after disturbance such as fire or the removal of invasive weeds.

### What Can You Do?

➔ **Be a Responsible Dog Owner**  
Register your pet. Exercise pets in designated dog-exercise areas. Otherwise keep dogs on a lead.

➔ **Stop the Spread of Dieback!**  
Follow hygiene protocols when working in bushland. Conduct soil disturbance activities when the soil is dry! Wash down vehicles and boots before entering dieback free bushland areas.

➔ **Reduce Your Carbon Footprint!**  
Modify your own behaviours to reduce energy use and your overall consumption of fossil fuels.

➔ **Be Prepared For Fire**  
Follow council guidelines to reduce risk on your property. Clear gutters and roofs of debris. Clear fuel (including leaves and sticks) away from around dwellings.

### Did you know?

Native Bush Rats can sometimes be confused with the introduced black rat. The native bush rat is protected! Get assistance to identify correctly.