

## Do no harm

Minimising disturbance is an important component of looking after our environments. Many animals such as reptiles and insects live in or under logs, rocks and fallen debris like branches and leaves. For example, the Pink-tailed worm-lizard, found only in three parts of Australia including our region, is vulnerable to rock removal. The lizards use rocks for thermal regulation and shelter from predators. It is important not to remove these features. Other animals shelter within or under fallen logs and leaves. Therefore it's important not to collect fallen timber for fire wood or other uses.



The Pink-tailed worm-lizard Photo credit: Damian Michael

**Molonglo Conservation Group acknowledges the Ngunawal and Ngambri people, the traditional custodians of the lands where we work. We recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and culture. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.**

Molonglo Conservation Group is working to restore and protect the habitat of threatened by restoring and conserving remnant vegetation with the help of local landholders and Landcare groups. This work is funded through the NSW Environment Trust.



**Environmental Trust**

## Useful Resources:

### Molonglo Conservation Group

[www.molonglo.org.au](http://www.molonglo.org.au)

Molonglo Conservation Group is a not-for-profit coordinator of Landcare, Park Care groups and rural landholders in the Molonglo and Queanbeyan River catchments of southern NSW and the ACT. It works to conserve and restore the environment in the Molonglo and Queanbeyan River Catchments.

### Landcare for Wildlife

<https://www.cen.org.au/projects/land-for-wildlife>

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme that encourages and supports landholders to manage areas of their property for wildlife habitat. Registration is free and does not alter the legal status of a property.

### Habitat for wildlife

Many species live in habitat that overlaps with urban areas. The Habitat for wildlife project works with landholders in urban areas to create and improve habitat in the places where they live.

### Small Farms Network

<http://www.smallfarms.net.au/>

South East Farmers Network supports a number of landholder Network's across the south east region. The Network's provide advice and support for people who live on or manage rural and peri-urban land for primary production, biodiversity or lifestyle goals.

### South East Local Land Service

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/south-east](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/south-east)

Local Land Services help farmers and landholders make better decisions about the land they manage and assist rural and regional communities to be profitable and sustainable into the future.



**Become an environmental steward on your property**



Scarlet Robin Photo credit: Paul Duff, Birdlife photography

The remnant woodlands and grasslands in the Molonglo region are home to incredible and unique diversity, including many vulnerable and beautiful woodland birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and plant life.

If you are a landholder in this region you have the opportunity to make a positive difference by becoming an environmental steward of an amazing place. This brochure provides information and resources that can help you to that.

## Learn about where you live

Learning about where you live is an important component of being an environmental steward. Having the knowledge to recognise signs of ecological health as well as the problems that exist, means that you will be able to appreciate what's there and take care of it, as well as work to improve things.

There are many resources, such as those highlighted in this brochure, that provide both information and assistance in being an environmental steward on your property.



Purple Fringe Lily Photo credit: Jed Pearson

The Molonglo catchment region contains remnant patches of a number of important threatened ecological communities such as box-gum woodlands, snow-gum woodlands and natural temperate grasslands. In spring rare orchids and lilies can be seen peeping out amongst the grasses and in summer swathes of native grasses sway in the wind. The trees, shrubs and grasses on these sites provide precious remnant habitat for bird species, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates. Notable species include Scarlet and Flame robins, the Dusky Woodswallow, the Speckled Warbler, the Pink-tailed worm-lizard, the Perunga Grasshopper and the Golden Sun Moth.

## Common environmental problems and what you can do about them

While there is much to celebrate in our region's environment, much harm has also been done due to inappropriate land management such as land clearing and over grazing. As a landholder in this region you have a valuable role to play in restoring habitat for the precious creatures you share your home with.

### Loss of habitat

Loss of habitat due to land clearing, grazing, weed incursion and erosion has an impact on both the size of remnant habitat areas and their structure and diversity. This impacts wildlife for a variety of reasons. For example, some birds need large areas of woodland and enough connections to move between patches. A woodland with big old trees is important for animals that use hollows for shelter and breeding. Intact layers of native grasses, and shrubs as well as a tall canopy can provide food and shelter for a variety of organisms including small birds. Ecological communities are a web of relationships dependant on one another.

### Weeds

Many weeds are prolific spreaders and can be difficult to control once they have a foothold in a landscape. The best way to keep them from coming back is to plant native species in their place. Less labour intensive ways of removing weeds can include methods like lopping and bagging seed heads before dispersal. For a full guide to many of the weeds in our region and how to control them you can find information about weeds in Molonglo Conservation Group's weed information pack:

[www.molonglo.org.au/post/weeds-information-pack](http://www.molonglo.org.au/post/weeds-information-pack)

### Plant regeneration

Regenerating your property with new plantings is a great way to restore habitat for local wildlife and combat weeds. The following guides provide useful information about the appropriate species to plant in various situations:

[www.molonglo.org.au/post/local-indigenous-plant-guides](http://www.molonglo.org.au/post/local-indigenous-plant-guides)

[www.sustainablefarms.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Farm-Dam-Planting-Guide-brochure-8.2.pdf](http://www.sustainablefarms.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Farm-Dam-Planting-Guide-brochure-8.2.pdf)

### Managing livestock

Many grazing animals such as sheep and cattle prefer the tender shoots of native grasses, shrubs and herbs. Inappropriate grazing regimes can lead to loss of biodiversity, but it is possible to graze in ways that can protect your local biodiversity with the right knowledge:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/3348/08/Sustainable-land-management-practices-for-graziers.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/3348/08/Sustainable-land-management-practices-for-graziers.pdf)

### Feral animals

Feral animals such as cats, foxes, rabbits, deer and goats are one of the biggest threats to our native ecosystems. Our native wildlife populations have suffered greatly due to predation from cats and foxes. Herbivores like deer, goats and rabbits reduce plant diversity, compete with native animals for resources and can cause erosion. You can learn more about feral animals along with effective and humane ways to control them from Molonglo Conservation Group's Pest Animal Fact Sheets:

[www.molonglo.org.au/post/pest-animal-fact-sheets](http://www.molonglo.org.au/post/pest-animal-fact-sheets)