

PROPOSED VEGETATION PLANTING, DUMARESQ CREEK,
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND, ARMIDALE.

A unique opportunity exists for the University of New England, with the help of Armidale-Dumaresq Landcare Group, to create an area of urban bushland. Unique because, once established, it would be the only area along Dumaresq Creek, within Armidale City, to contain any significant native vegetation.

The aim of the project is to convert 8.5 hectares of introduced pasture, into an area of native bushland containing high biodiversity. The area concerned is University owned land situated east of Elm Avenue, below Claude Street flats, and is readily viewed from both the Armidale By-pass and Elm Avenue (see attached plan). An additional fence, to exclude stock, has recently been constructed within the area by Estates and Facilities with funding from the Armidale-Dumaresq Landcare Group.

The design is not intended to be a block of thick forest, but rather a mosaic of communities of differing plant heights and planting densities, more akin to a 'natural' varied landscape.

The area would provide significant habitat for native fauna, firstly due to its size, and secondly because several habitat types are already present, or have been included in the design.

Habitats such as open water, wetland areas, wet heath, woodland, forest and native grassland will all contribute to increased fauna diversity. The area will also complement the existing snow gum woodland between Trevanna Road and the Sports Union.

The project also has considerable educational potential. The development of the bushland could be monitored by various academic departments. Suggested projects include measuring growth rates and health of the plantings, effects of revegetation on stream quality and also the changes in reptile, amphibian and bird diversity and abundance over time.

As the planting guide indicates (Attachment A), only native plants from Armidale and surrounds are included. The planting of exotic trees and shrubs are undesirable as they have adverse effects on streamflow (eg willows), and

because they are ecologically unsuitable for riparian vegetation. Furthermore, the Department of Land and Water Conservation is unlikely to approve of any further planting of such species within the riparian zone.

Two small willow trees and several hawthorn bushes occur on the creek bank. The removal of these species is recommended for reasons outlined previously. Also, hawthorns are a serious urban bushland weed, with eradication programs already undertaken on campus.

The Landcare group has secured the services of the LEAP program, through Greening Australia, to undertake the planting of the area in spring of this year. Accordingly we seek approval to undertake revegetation works according to the attached landscape plan, so that preparation for planting can be carried out as soon as possible.

The Landcare group wishes to thank the University for the opportunity to be able to create an area of urban bushland, which we can all be proud of.

Douglas Beckers
for the
Armidale-Dumaresq Landcare Group

Attachment A

PLANTING GUIDE, DUMARESQ CREEK, UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND
 detailing numbers of plants per area

Species	Areas indicated on Plan													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13*	
Casuarina cunningghamiana														
Eucalyptus viminalis	130	250	350						100	100	70			
Eucalyptus stellulata					170	530	100				200			
Eucalyptus melliodora										150	200			
Eucalyptus blakelyi	250										200			
Angophora floribunda	130										100			
Acacia melanoxylon	130										70			
Acacia flicifolia									100	200	370			
Banksia integrifolia									100	100	200			
Bursaria spinosa											180			
Leptospermum polygalifolium		220	200	680	100	100	20	1185	160			100		
Callistemon sieberi		220	200	680	160		25	315						
Hakea microcarpa						100		200			100			
Lomatia fraseri					200	100	40		100	60	100			
Cassinia quinquefaria	130					100				70	100			
Lomandra longifolia			200											
Approximate area (m ²)	3250	3190	8600	6800	4250	3950	1000	6600	5600	3250	6250	30	5000	
Planting density (see key)	H	H	M	H	LT,MS	H	LT,HS	H	M	H	H	H	H	

* Area 13 to be seeded with native grasses- Microlaena stipoides and Danthonia "Teranna"

Key: H=High (1 plant/5m²), M=Medium (1 plant/10m²), L=Low (1 plant/25m²), T=Trees, S=Shrubs