

Unauthorised Vegetation Damage Signage Policy

POLICY STATEMENT	<p>1.1 To support Council’s strategic outcomes to value and prioritise the values of the natural environment.</p> <p>1.2 To provide clear direction as to the appropriate use and placement of signage.</p> <p>1.3 To educate the public where illegal removal of vegetation has occurred on Council owned and/or managed land.</p>
DEFINITIONS	<p>2.1 Vegetation means plant life whether native or exotic (not including declared or environmental weeds).</p> <p>2.2 High conservation value tree means a tree that is of a species that is listed in the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 or the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999; and/or provides potential or significant habitat for a threatened species listed in either of those acts and/or is a native tree with a trunk circumference at 1.5m above the ground exceeding 220cm.</p>
OBJECTIVE	<p>3.1 To reduce and deter the illegal removal and/or damage of vegetation from public land within Kingborough by providing a framework for a consistent and timely response by Council.</p> <p>3.2 To provide an avenue to respond to breaches of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By-law when other actions, such as infringement, are not available.</p>
SCOPE	<p>4.1 This policy applies to all public land in Kingborough that is owned and/or managed by Council.</p>
PROCEDURE (POLICY DETAIL)	<p>5.1 Educational signage will be erected at the site of the offence when clear breaches of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By-law 2 of 2011, Division 2 12(1) 12(2) or 15(3) have been identified.</p> <p>5.2 Signage will be erected regardless of whether the identity of those responsible for the damage has been established.</p> <p>5.3 The damaged site shall be rehabilitated either by planting suitable replacement vegetation or through the use of other methods which aid natural regeneration.</p> <p>5.4 Signage There are two size categories: Category A: 600mm x 900mm sign (approximately) on a post(s) to 3m high. Category B: 1200mm x 900mm sign (approximately) on posts to 3m high</p> <p>5.5 Wording of Sign (noting that the wording may be amended from time to time to reflect changes in Council’s By-laws).</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>THIS VEGETATION HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY DAMAGED</p> <p>Vegetation provides valuable wildlife habitat, visual amenity and resilience against landslips and erosion Damaging vegetation without a permit is an offence under Kingborough Council’s Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By- law 2 of 2011 <i>Penalties apply</i> Report suspicious activity to Kingborough Council on 6211 8200</p> </div>

	<p>5.6 Signage placement and duration</p> <p>The category of sign to be used is dictated by the scale of the unauthorised vegetation removal and/or damage at the location. Where appropriate, more than one sign may be erected.</p> <p>Category A signage will be used where vegetation has been damaged and is deemed by an Authorised Officer to have been either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between 0.1m and 1.5m in height and resulted in a cleared/modified area not exceeding 50m², or • up to three individual trees, or • a combination of the above. <p>Category B signage will be used at the discretion of the General Manager where vegetation has been damaged and is deemed by an Authorised Officer to have been either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between 0.1m and 1.5m in height and resulted in a cleared/modified area exceeding 50m², or • one or more individual trees of high conservation value or scenic value • a combination of the above <p>5.7 Signage will remain in place until the site has regenerated to pre-damage status, has regenerated to the satisfaction of the General Manager, or for five years, whichever comes sooner.</p> <p>5.8 The site will be monitored annually by Council. This is to include a photographic record of the site up until the sign is removed.</p>
GUIDELINES	<p>6.1 Category A signage is intended to be used where damage to natural or scenic values is minor in nature or impact and/or there is no clear evidence of a direct benefit to adjoining properties.</p> <p>6.2 Category B signage is intended to be used where there is a moderate or significant impact on natural values including high conservation value trees, threatened species and/or threatened species habitat, where there is high level of scenic disturbance and/or there is clear evidence of a direct benefit to adjoining properties such as improved sightlines.</p>
COMMUNICATION	<p>7.1 This policy will be made available to the general public on the Council website and at the Customer Services counter.</p>
LEGISLATION	<p>8.1 Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By-Law 2 of 2011 Division 2 12(1) 12(2) or 15(3)</p> <p>8.2 Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2015</p> <p>8.3 <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.</i></p>
RELATED DOCUMENTS	<p>9.1 Nil</p>
AUDIENCE	<p>10.1 Council staff.</p> <p>10.2 Kingborough residents.</p>