

Native vegetation

Do I need a permit?



Our commitment

The Corangamite Shire Council is committed to protecting native vegetation across the Shire. Native vegetation provides important habitat for native wildlife and contributes to healthy waterways and landscapes. Some of our native vegetation is unique to our region and cannot be found anywhere else in the world.



Native grasslands are protected

What vegetation is protected?

All native vegetation is protected by State and Federal legislation, whether it be a grass, wildflower, orchid, shrub or tree. Even common native species, such as the Blackwood and Tree Violets are protected.

When is a permit required?

A planning permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, including dead native vegetation unless it meets one of the exemptions specified in the Corangamite Planning Scheme.

Exemptions

There are several exemptions where you may not need a planning permit to remove or lop native vegetation to the minimum extent necessary from your property.

You should always check with Council to determine if you need a permit before removing or lopping any native vegetation.

Minimum extent necessary

Regardless of whether a permit is required, any clearing or lopping of native vegetation must only remove the minimum extent of native vegetation necessary.

Illegal vegetation removal

There can be significant penalties for the illegal removal of native vegetation, including prosecution in the Magistrates Court and fines of up to \$140,000 as well as significant costs to undertake remediation works for the native vegetation loss.

If the illegal removal includes rare or threatened species or vegetation communities, there may be higher penalties including large fines and imprisonment.



Illegal native vegetation clearing