

## FACT SHEET

### Landscape Maintenance

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#### Characteristics

Landscaping at community interfaces and the creek areas of the Westlink M7 motorway is designed to extend the existing endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland plant community (a unique type of Woodland not found anywhere else in Australia). (Refer Protecting the Cumberland Plain Woodland fact sheet.)

Landscaping along the motorway, shared path, interchanges and edges (including parts of the community interface) is a mix of native cultivars and exotic species. The intention of this landscaping is to highlight different landscape themes, act as landmarks and improve the appearance of the motorway in keeping with the local area.

#### Planting

Approximately 800,000 plants were installed following the construction of the M7 to achieve the landscape design. Since the opening of the M7 in December 2005 approximately 100,000 additional plants have been put in to improve the overall aesthetic of the motorway, connectivity of existing vegetation and the local environment. This includes approximately 25,000 plants that were planted December 2009-May 2010.

Local native plants have been selected for planting over much of the M7 as they are tolerant of environmental conditions, maintain ecology and biodiversity, provide suitable habitat for native animals and maintain the unique character of the landscape.

#### Growth Stages of Landscaping

The accompanying images show the anticipated growth of the landscape over time. These images highlight the time required for landscape establishment. On the whole the landscape has now achieved a 3-5 year growth, with the mature appearance of the plants taking form.

As plants become more established, weed growth opportunities lessen. In the meantime, weeds may be more visible.

#### Maintenance

Landscape maintenance is undertaken by a dedicated team along the residential and motorway boundaries, median strip and shared path on a routine basis and in accordance with the RTA's Maintenance Standards.

The Maintenance Standards include the:

- Cutting of grass in a 1.7m width along the residential boundary of the motorway, shared path, the median strip and roadside every three months;
- Assessment and treatment or removal of unhealthy or dead trees;
- Maintenance of plants for motorway and shared path user safety;
- Routine assessment of planted sites for further requirements such as noxious weed control.

#### How you can help

- Do not place household, building or garden waste over the back fence. Lawn grasses are very invasive and are a great threat as weeds to Australian native plants. This waste may also block drainage. Likewise animal waste both increases soil nutrients causing a threat to the bushland and local waterways and hinders maintenance procedures.
- Do not disturb the vegetation and native animals by entering restricted areas, pruning, lopping or removing any plants, logs, etc.
- Ask your nursery for local natives for your garden.

#### Comments

If you have any enquiries regarding the landscaping you can contact Westlink M7 on 9834 9200 or via email: [info@westlinkm7.com.au](mailto:info@westlinkm7.com.au).

