

Albury Conservation Company

HOLLOW BEARING TREES THURGOONA / WIRLINGA, NSW



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



NSW Environmental Trust







AIMS

To locate and map this critical natural asset (green infrastructure) across Thurgoona / Wirlinga, Albury's urban growth corridor.

To provide the data to Albury City Council to inform the development process.





Ground-based surveys using binoculars, recording GPS location, diameter at breast height (DBH), species, number of hollows observed, and whether the tree was alive or dead. A photo of each tree was also taken.



LOCATIONS

- Roadsides
- Conservation reserves (E2,E3 land)
- Urban areas (e.g. parks)
- Private land







750 ha

AREA surveyed for HBTs

523

NUMBER of HBTs located, mapped and recorded

1 in 6

HBTs surveyed were DEAD (17% of HBTs surveyed)



24

Highest number of HOLLOWS recorded in a SINGLE TREE





10

HIGHEST DENSITY of HBTs per hectare (Bishops Walk Park, Thurgoona)

1.4

AVERAGE (Mean) number of HBTs per HECTARE of the areas surveyed

3.5

AVERAGE (Mean) number of HOLLOWS per HBT 6 m

Largest circumference (at 1.3 m above ground) of any HBT recorded.

0.9m

Largest circumference (at 1.3 m above ground) of any HBT recorded.

4%

Of HBT's surveyed had visible EUROPEAN BEE HIVES.



HOLLOW-BEARING TREES ACCORDING TO SPECIES



HOW IS THE DATA BEING USED?

The project data and photos have been supplied to Council for the establishment of a significant tree overlay on their 'weave' mapping program.

This information is being considered during the Development Application (DA) process, and in the infrastructure planning process (e.g. roads).



SUMMARY

HOLLOW BEARING TREES - A SCARCE RESOURCE INDEED

Remaining HBTs are a lot less common than we realise. NSW State Government estimates indicate that the highest quality Box Gum Woodland (like in Thurgoona / Wirlinga) contain between **7 and 17 HBTs per hectare**. The highest density recorded locally was 10 HBTs / ha - in Bishops Walk Park (Thurgoona) of all places! The next highest was 3.5 HBTs / ha at Bells TSR (E2 zoned). Woolshed Creek and Eight Mile Creek (E3 zoned) contain less than 2 HBTs / ha. *Given the local scarcity, remaining HBTs should receive extra care and protection.*

HOLLOW BEARING TREES - WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE

1 in 6 HBTs recorded were dead. Research suggests that dead trees form hollows quicker than living trees. They may be technically dead, but they are still 'life support' for many hollow-dependent animals. *Dead HBTs deserve protection equal to their living equivalents.*

























MOVING FORWARD

MORE MAPPING OF HOLLOW-BEARING TREES IS NEEDED

This HBT mapping project is finished, yet there are still significant areas yet to be surveyed, including privately-owned land zoned for development . **HBTs should be identified and mapped during the Development Application (DA) process and added to Council's significant tree overlay.**

HOLLOW-BEARING TREES NEED MORE PROTECTION

If HBTs are not nearly as common in Environmental-zoned land as assumed, *HBTs* on land zoned for development may warrant greater protection than currently afforded.

OFFSETS FOR REMOVAL OF HOLLOW-BEARING TREES SHOULD BETTER REFLECT THEIR LOCAL SCARCITY AND TRUE VALUE

When a HBT is removed, are we adequately compensating its true value by planting ten native seedlings or installing of a handful of nest boxes? These are positive actions, but *what does 'like-for-like' actually mean when a HBT has to be removed*?



THE END

THANK YOU



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