This guide aims to assist people to select suitable indigenous plants for bushland rehabilitation, revegetation or landscaping throughout the Shire.

Rehabilitation of degraded native vegetation:
- helps protect biodiversity.
- reverses environmental decline.
- retains the unique peninsula landscape.

All native vegetation has value. Council asks that existing native vegetation is retained and protected on your land and adjoining areas. Removal of native vegetation requires a Council planning permit.

While replanting is a very effective method of restoring degraded areas, it cannot replace the value or diversity of naturally occurring native vegetation.

Where remnant native vegetation has been removed or is highly degraded, revegetation may be used to:
- replace habitat for native animals.
- control erosion and improve water quality in your catchment.
- connect existing areas of native vegetation.
- replace habitat for native animals.
- help control weeds.
- reduce the affects of salinity.
- help control weeds.

The use of indigenous plants for landscaping assists in:
- reducing garden water usage.
- providing opportunities for native fauna.
- maintaining peninsula landscapes.

What is an Ecological Vegetation Class?

An Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) is a mapping unit created from the classification of plant associations across Victoria.

EVCs are the result of an interaction of ecological processes and physical conditions. For example, a well drained area will provide conditions suitable for some plants over others, resulting in a different vegetation class to wetter areas. However, interactions are based on a number of factors including:
- soil type
- topography
- past disturbance such as fire and
- vicinity to the coast.

The most widespread Ecological Vegetation Class in the Tuerong region is Lowland Forest. Over 80% of Lowland Forest has been cleared since European settlement on the peninsula. The Tuerong region also contains significant areas of Damp Heathy Woodland (right) and Herb-rich Foothill Forest.

What are the benefits of using indigenous plants for landscaping?

- helps control weeds.
- reduces the affects of salinity.
- restores natural wetland depressions.
- retains the unique peninsula landscape.
- reverses environmental decline.
- helps protect biodiversity.
- connects wetland areas.
- provides opportunities for native fauna.
- reduces garden water usage.
- retains the unique peninsula landscape.

Loss of Native Vegetation

Over 90% of naturally occurring native vegetation has been cleared on the Mornington Peninsula. Large scale removal of native vegetation has led to almost all EVCs on the peninsula today being classified as rare or threatened.

Reserves with examples of good quality native vegetation in this region include:
- Woods Reserve
- Kangaroo Flora Reserve
- Buckleys Nature Reserve

Further Information

Flora of Victoria CD Rom - Womersley 2004
Flora of Melbourne - Australian Plant Society 2003
Reports and Maps, Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and Sites of Biodiversity Significance (Biosites) Port Phillip and Westernport Region CD Rom - Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002
Further information can be found at:
- www.dse.vic.gov.au
- www.greeningaustralia.org.au
- www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

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