

FUTURE-PROOF YOUR RESTORATION

Adjusting for a changing climate



Photo by Tanya Loos



Photo from Connecting Country archives

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Climate change will affect the areas we are caring for, and their associated plants and animals. Sourcing seed from locations that are hotter and drier may be necessary.
- Having a better knowledge of revegetation effectiveness, now and in the future, can help us adapt & learn. Monitoring revegetated areas is important if we want to understand how species survive and grow.
- Knowing where your seeds come from, and having nursery sites of different provenance, may be important for future revegetation activities.
- Species distributions will (mostly, but not always) tend to shift southwards e.g., we may see species moving into our region from the north.

THINGS WE CAN DO:

- Champion the climate adaptation benefits of existing conventional restoration work, e.g., connectivity, genetic breadth, resilience.
- Engage with the modellers (e.g., universities researching climate-ready planting, and organisations such as *Greening Australia* who are developing guidelines) and interpret their work for our local community.
- Foster projects that build the knowledge needed for climate adaptation.

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THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Some weed species will become more of a problem (e.g., grassy weeds and cacti), while others may become easier to manage.
- Weeds do not go away if the problems are ignored.
- Prioritising weeds for targeted control efforts can save lots of time and frustration.
- Managing weeds is an important aspect of giving our biodiversity the best chance in the face of climate change.
- Gradually achieving weed control goals can be very rewarding.

WEEDS TO WATCH

THINGS WE CAN DO:

- Keep an eye out for weed species that are new to your area - early detection is essential to reduce the spread of new weeds.
- Promote better weed hygiene practices, e.g., reducing the spread of introduced species via machinery.
- Identify and eradicate new and emerging weeds immediately. Early eradication is easier and more cost effective than waiting until new weeds are established.

This information sheet is a summary of ideas and research presented at two 'Future-proof your restoration' seminars run by Connecting Country in 2018. Thank you to guest speakers David Cheal, John Morgan, Jeroen van Veen, Sacha Jellinek, and Brian Bainbridge for allowing us to share this information here.

For copies of their full presentations and other relevant resources, go to: <https://connectingcountry.org.au/education-resources/take-action/biodiversity-and-climate-change>, or call (03) 5472 1594.

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