GREENWEB

SUTHERLAND SHIRE
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION 2020

SUTHERLAND SHIRE

This specification is structured as follows;

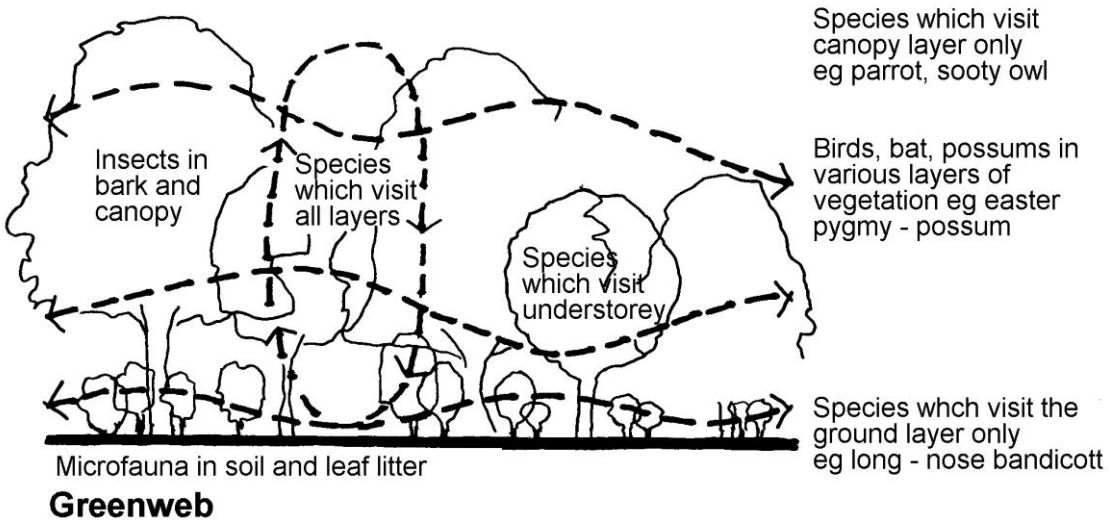
1. Introduction

This Environmental Specification contains detailed requirements relating to the documentation and implementation of the controls for Greenweb. This specification should be read in conjunction with Sutherland Shire Local Environmental Plan 2015 and the Sutherland Shire Development Control Plan 2015 where the Greenweb map is located. Sutherland Shire Development Control Plan 2015 - Chapter 39 Natural Resource Management

Parts of the Environmental Specification – Landscape also form part of this Specification, as follows:
Environmental Specification – Landscape Part 1 Planting and Landscaping Guidelines
Environmental Specification - Landscape Part 5 Tree Protection on Construction Sites

2. Basic Information about Greenweb

Sutherland Shire Council has identified key areas of bushland habitat and interconnecting linkages or corridors that can be established across the Shire. These selected areas have been categorised as Greenweb Core, Greenweb Support or Greenweb Restoration, as identified on the Greenweb Map in Chapter 39 of Sutherland Shire Development Control Plan 2015. The overriding goal is to connect currently fragmented areas of remnant bushland, by encouraging the undertaking of bush regeneration in certain degraded areas of bushland and in some places re-establishing indigenous vegetation. Areas of bushland can act as important habitat areas and can ultimately be connected to form wildlife corridors, allowing for the migration of wildlife and native plant dispersal. The strategy aims to preserve biodiversity in the long term. The illustration below shows how vegetation can form wildlife corridors for a variety of wildlife species.



Greenweb

The Greenweb comprises:

2.1 Core

Core areas are of high significance to the sustainability of the Greenweb as they are key habitat areas, containing key linkages, threatened species or endangered ecological communities, and must be self-supporting habitats larger than 2 hectares. In an area designated as Greenweb Core all new plantings must be indigenous species.

2.2 Support

Support areas provide ancillary habitat or secondary linkages between habitats and can act as ‘stepping stones’ between core areas. In an area designated as Greenweb Support, all new tree plantings must be indigenous species and approximately 80% of understorey plants must be indigenous species.

2.3 Restoration

Restoration areas are areas where there is a long term commitment to re-establishing indigenous vegetation in order to provide links between core areas of habitat. In areas designated as Greenweb Restoration, all new tree plantings must be indigenous species and approximately 50% of understorey plants must be indigenous species.

Landscaping in Core, Support and Restoration areas should support the objectives of the Greenweb strategy.

In all these areas, the strategy requires that existing suitable trees and areas of native vegetation are retained and that habitat or corridor areas are revegetated. Revegetation, or even individual tree planting using appropriate plants, can enhance the ecological quality of the landscape and assist in reaching Greenweb objectives.

All indigenous species must be selected from Sutherland Shire Council's 'Native Plant Selector' available on Council's website.

The Native Plant Selector is a tool that identifies plants suitable for Sutherland Shire's ecosystems based on locality. Plants selected are indigenous to Sutherland Shire and are suitable for restoration and landscaping works.

Landscaping of a residential development using indigenous plants from the list of plant species can also form part of the Basix requirement for a development.

3. Greenweb Landscaping Guidelines

3.1 Achieving Canopy Cover for Greenweb Areas– Plant Spacing

Planting density largely depends on the desired finished character of the project. If the creation of a natural landscape is required then closer spacings will give the effect of the local bushland, where plants compete for light and space, and the overall composition is an integrated unit. This will require plant species from all strata levels (i.e. upper, middle and lower canopy) to be represented.

In order to achieve a consistent canopy of trees, plant spacing is particularly important. By planting trees so that their canopies overlap a strong tree canopy is provided.

The following table is provided as a guide to assist in planting trees and shrubs so that canopy and understorey planting achieves the intended results.

Planting Density Guide

	Grasses &Groundcovers (including climbers, ferns etc)	Shrubs	Trees
All environmental zones	**5 plants per m2**	**1 plant per 2 m2**	**1 plant per 7 m2**
Open drainage swales and saltmarsh	**6 plants per m2**		

Closer plant spacing gives the effect of the local bushland, where plants compete for light and space. Expected plant fatalities are better compensated for in the original planting rather than resulting in an under-planted landscape or necessitating subsequent follow up plantings that have to catch up. Also, sparsely planted landscapes with bare areas allows for weed dissemination.

The amount of maintenance a project needs will depend upon the harshness of the site and the prevailing weather conditions.

Choosing the most appropriate initial plant size can greatly determine the outcome, as well as the process of a project. Smaller containers (forestry tubes ~ 0.24 litre containers) have proven to have many advantages over advanced plants. However, on some projects a combination of younger and more advanced specimens may work best. Shrubs and ground covers in tubes, with some strategically placed advanced specimens to give some initial impact, is an effective approach.

To ensure long-term viability of the tree planting and canopy it is also advisable to plant trees away from other structures, including structures on adjoining properties.

Generally it is advised that large trees should not be planted within 3 metres of any dwellings or structures.

3.2 Greenweb Areas Weed Control

Generally a weed control program will be required. A weed control program can be divided into three stages. These are:

Primary Weed Control. This is the initial removal of weeds and there are various methods used. Weeding techniques vary from weed to weed and choosing the most appropriate method will ensure that control is efficient and successful. The techniques used should be those recognised by the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators.

Follow-up Weed Control. This involves the removal of mostly herbaceous weed species that have re-sprouted or weed seedlings that have germinated. This stage may require several follow up sessions depending on the species being controlled, weather conditions and soil seed bank.

Long Term Maintenance. Regular observation and control of rogue or persistent weeds will ensure previous efforts are not wasted and should be undertaken regularly at least once a month.