Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

Draft Revegetation Plan

May 2026

Highbury Aqueduct Reserve has recently had detections of pest insect Giant Pine Scale - an insect that feeds on the sap of pine trees and poses a serious biosecurity threat to the forestry industry and amenity pine trees across the broader Adelaide area. This has meant that many non-native pine trees have needed to be removed from the reserve along Boundy Rd, behind Conifer Place and Woodland Ct, Highbury to prevent further spread of the pest. The areas cleared of pine trees are planned to be revegetated to restore amenity, shade and biodiversity to the area. This draft revegetation plan provides an overview of the planned revegetation works for 2026.

Site summary

The non-native pine trees within Highbury Aqueduct Reserve are predominantly Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis)* which is native to the Mediterranean Region. Some of the remaining pine trees within the reserve are aged and nearing the end of their life span. The pine needles from the Aleppo pines can restrict other vegetation's ability to grow on the ground beneath the trees. This has in some instances, created a monoculture which favoured larger canopy dwelling birds.

With many of the pine trees now removed, important considerations in planning the revegetation of these areas includes the need to provide shade and amenity for local residents and reserve users, and also alternative habitat for the local native wildlife that frequent or live within the reserve.

The revegetation plan has been developed with input from expert flora ecologists to determine the most appropriate native species to support the local native wildlife. This includes providing structural complexity in the mix of tall trees, smaller trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers, ensuring appropriate food sources and foraging resources are available as well as perches and open hunting areas and corridors for wildlife movement. The selected vegetation association is representative of what would have naturally occurred in the Highbury area prior to the pine trees being planted. This approach will provide a broader diversity of habitat for other wildlife to return to the reserve, including smaller birds and butterflies, which require shrubs and native grasses for protection and food.

The Highbury Aqueduct site is in very close proximity to the River Torrens Linear Park and has smaller tributaries flowing into the River Torrens. The connectivity of the tributaries to the River Torrens has been considered in selecting appropriate native riparian species.

The Highbury Aqueduct Reserve is managed by the Department for Environment and Water and is owned by the Minister for Planning. The state government has allocated $221,000 of funding to support the remediation and revegetation works at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve.

What are we going to plant?

Natural bushland reserve

Our revegetation plan aims to restore the areas cleared of pine tree to *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (South Australian Blue Gum) dominated open grassy woodlands, which is representative of nearby remnant patches of undisturbed bush land and consistent with revegetation works undertaken across the reserve

over the previous 10 years – which has been successful in establishing and is now supporting an extensive range of native wildlife.

Eucalyptus Leucoxylon (South Australian Blue Gum) and *Callitris gracilis Syn. C. preissi. (Southern Cypress pine/native pine)* tree species will dominate the upper canopy, with enough gaps between their canopies to allow light through to a mid-storey dominated by smaller trees such as *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping Sheaoks), *Acacia Pycnantha* (Golden Wattle) and medium native shrubs such as *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria) and *Dodonea viscosa* (Sticky hop-bush), and ground covers such as native grasses and lilies. It is important to introduce native grass species into the cleared areas to assist with soil stabilisation and to return nutrients to the soil. Native grasses will be managed through the ongoing maintenance program for the reserve.

Approximately 1200 plants will be planted throughout the 'Mixed Native Planting Zones' within the reserve near Boundy Road, which can be seen on the Revegetation Map on page 5. Approximately 500 riparian (watercourse) plants, dominated by native sedges and grasses will be planted throughout the 'Riparian Vegetation Zones' within the watercourse below Kent Road.

On the corner of Boundy Rd and Kent Rd, vegetation pods which include approximately 15 sapling size native Southern Cypress pines will feature and provide soft screening between the reserve and residential properties on Kent Road.

On the hillside area behind Conifer Place and Woodland Court, Highbury, approximately 3030 plants ranging from larger trees on the ridge to medium size trees and shrubs further down the slopes, to native grasses and ground covers will be planted around erosion control devices (coir logs and silt fences) – as they grow the roots of these plants will establish and assist with stabilising soil in this area.

This is a total of approximately 4745 plants to planted across the impacted area of the reserve this year. This is in addition to a further 2000 that are also scheduled to be planted throughout other areas of the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve this year. Ongoing maintenance and watering of these plants will be undertaken on an ongoing basis.

Street Trees

To return shade and amenity to the street and foot path areas around the reserve, the Department is working with the City of Tea Tree Gully to install several street trees along Boundy Road and Kent Road. The planting of street trees is likely to occur in 2027.

Positive outcomes from revegetation of this reserve

- Provide shade and amenity for reserve users
- Improve aesthetics of the area once revegetation establishes
- Provide a broader range of habitat for various species to return to the reserve
- Increase the biodiversity of the reserve and provide alternative food sources for native wildlife
- Provide a positive visitor experience for reserve users
- Stabilisation of soil and rock on steeper terrain
- Reduce the impacts of future erosion
- Improve privacy of neighbouring residents once established

How long will it take?

We are aiming to have most of the 2026 planting completed by end of August 2026. Ongoing maintenance and watering will be a priority to ensure that the revegetation is established as soon as possible. The revegetation survival rates will be monitored to determine if infill plantings are required in following years. The street trees are planned to be installed in 2027.

The following photos show the success of some of our previous restoration plantings form 2023 along Boundy Rd and should provide an insight into plant growth timeframes.

Revegetation after 1 year

Revegetation after 2 years

Revegetation species lists

Mixed native trees shrubs and grasses in pods (green areas on map of revegetation map below)

Eucalyptus leucoxylon	SA Blue Gum
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping Sheoak
Callitris gracilis	Southern Cypress pine
Austrostipa elegantissima	Elegant Spear Grass
Austrostipa sp	Spear Grass
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Common Everlasting
Convolvolus remotus	Bindweed
Dianella revoluta	Black-anther Flax-lily
Dodonaea viscosa	Sticky Hop-bush
Lomandra multiflora ssp. dura	Stiff Irongrass
Olearia ramulosa	Twiggy Daisy-bush
Rytidosperma sp.	Wallaby Grass
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass
Vittadinia sp.	Daisy
Acacia rupicola	Rock Wattle
Einadia nutans	Climbing Saltbush
Enchyleana tomentosa	Ruby Saltbush
Gonocarpus elatus	Tall Raspwort
Rytidosperma sp.	Wallaby grass
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo grass
Hakea carinata	Erect Hakea
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood

Mixed native trees shrubs and grasses on hillside (light blue areas on map of revegetation map below)

Austrostipa mollis	Soft Spear-grass
Austrostipa scabra ssp. scabra	Rough Spear-grass
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Callitris gracillis	Southern Cypress Pine
Dianella revoluta	Black-anther Flax-lily
Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spatulata	Sticky Hop-bush
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum
Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. leucoxylon	Southern Australian Blue Gum
Exocarpus cupressiformis	Native Cherry
Goodenia albiflora	Goodenia
Hibbertia riparia	Bristly Guinea-flower
Hibbertia sericea	Sticky Guinea-flower
Hardenbergia violacea	Native Lilac
Lomandra densiflora	Soft Tussock Mat-rush
Lomandra multiflora	Mat-Rush
Olearia ramulosa	Twiggy Daisy-bush
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass
Vittadinia gracilis	Woolly New Holland Daisy
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping sheoaks
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle
Hakea rostrata	Beaked Hakea
Hakea carinata	Erect Hakea
Acacia melanoxylon	Black Wood
Callistemon sieberi	River bottlebrush
Gonocarpus elatus	Tall raspwort
Rytidosperma spp.	Wallaby grass
Enchylaena tomentosa	Ruby salt bush

Riparian (watercourse) species (dark blue areas on map of revegetation map below)

Rytidosperma sp.	Wallaby Grass
Dianella revoluta	Black-anther Flax-lily
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass
Lomandra multiflora ssp. dura	Stiff Iron grass
Carex tereticaulis	Hollow sedge
Cyperus gymnocaulos	Spiny sedge
Juncus subsecundus	Finger rush
Carex fasicularis	Tassel sedge
Cyperus vaginatus	Stiff leaf sedge
Callistemon sieberi	River bottlebrush

Map of revegetation areas for 2026