

Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

Revegetation Plan

July 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



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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. Recent feedback received from the local community through the YourSAy public consultation from May 2026-June 2026 on this revegetation plan included extensive support for revegetating the reserve with locally native species of trees, shrubs and grasses to provide habitat and food sources for 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. Mid-storey plantings will be dominated by smaller trees such as *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle) and medium native shrubs such as *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria) and *Dodonea viscosa* (Sticky hop-bush), *Hakea carinata* (Erect Hakea – an important food source for Yellow-tail Black Cockatoos) 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. To further improve soil condition, mulch will be brought into the areas cleared of pine trees to help establish the new revegetation pods. A full species list is provided below for each area of revegetation.

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 be 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 from 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)

Scientific name	Common name	Description
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold dust Wattle	Medium Shrub (Usually between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Acacia provincialis</i>	Swamp Wattle	Erect shrub up to 10 metres
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	Small Tree (Up to 7m)
<i>Acacia rupicola</i>	Rock Wattle	Medium Shrub (between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak	Medium Tree (between 5m & 11m)
<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily	Lily
<i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i>	Elegant Spear Grass	Grass
<i>Austrostipa sp</i>	Spear Grass	Grass
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	Medium Tree (between 5m & 11m)
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	Small Tree (Up to 7m)
<i>Callitris gracilis</i>	Southern Cypress pine	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Convolvulus remotus</i>	Bindweed	Flowering ground cover
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	Flowering daisy
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	Lily
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Sticky Hop-bush	Large Shrub (Usually exceeds 3.6m)
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Climbing Saltbush	Groundcover
<i>Enchyleana tomentosa</i>	Ruby Saltbush	Low shrub (Up to 1.2m)
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	SA Blue Gum	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Geranium retrorsum</i>	Grassland Crane's-bill	Groundcover
<i>Gonocarpus elatus</i>	Tall Raspwort	Groundcover
<i>Hakea carinata</i>	Erect Hakea	Medium Shrub (between 1.2m & 3.6m)

<i>Lomandra multiflora</i> ssp. <i>dura</i>	Stiff Irongrass	Rush
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>	Twiggy Daisy-bush	Flowering daisy
<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.	Wallaby Grass	Grass
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	Grass
<i>Vittadinia</i> sp.	Daisy	Flowering daisy
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	Tall Blue Bell	Flowering ground cover

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

Scientific name	Common name	Description
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	Small Tree (Up to 7m)
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Black Wood	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping sheoaks	Medium Tree (between 5m & 11m)
<i>Austrostipa mollis</i>	Soft Spear-grass	Grass
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i> ssp. <i>scabra</i>	Rough Spear-grass	Grass
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	Medium Tree (between 5m & 11m)
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River bottlebrush	Medium Shrub (between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Callitris gracilis</i>	Southern Cypress Pine	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	Lily
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> ssp. <i>spatulata</i>	Sticky Hop-bush	Large Shrub (Usually exceeds 3.6m)
<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>	Ruby salt bush	Low shrub (Up to 1.2m)
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> ssp. <i>leucoxylon</i>	Southern Australian Blue Gum	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Goodenia albiflora</i>	Goodenia	Flowering groundcover
<i>Gonocarpus elatus</i>	Tall raspwort	Groundcover
<i>Hakea carinata</i>	Erect Hakea	Medium Shrub (between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Hakea rostrata</i>	Beaked Hakea	Medium Shrub (between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Native Lilac	Medium Shrub (between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Bristly Guinea-flower	Flowering ground cover
<i>Hibbertia sericea</i>	Sticky Guinea-flower	Flowering ground cover
<i>Lomandra densiflora</i>	Soft Tussock Mat-rush	Rush
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Mat-Rush	Rush
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>	Twiggy Daisy-bush	Flowering daisy
<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.	Wallaby grass	Grass
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	Grass
<i>Vittadinia gracilis</i>	Woolly New Holland Daisy	Flowering daisy

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

Scientific name	Common name	Description
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold Dust Wattle	Medium Shrub (Usually between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Acacia provincialis</i>	Swamp Wattle	Erect shrub up to 10 metres
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River bottlebrush	Medium Shrub (between 1.2m & 3.6m)
<i>Carex fascicularis</i>	Tassel sedge	Watercourse sedge
<i>Carex tereticaulis</i>	Hollow sedge	Watercourse sedge
<i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i>	Spiny sedge	Watercourse sedge
<i>Cyperus vaginatus</i>	Stiff leaf sedge	Watercourse sedge
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	Lily
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	Tall Tree (Usually exceeds 10m)
<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	Finger rush	Watercourse rush
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i> ssp. <i>dura</i>	Stiff Iron grass	Rush
<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.	Wallaby Grass	Grass
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	Grass

Map of revegetation areas for 2026

