

Your questions answered



*Living Maroondah: a future for
our plants, animals and us*
Saturday, 16th February 2019

During the Living Maroondah event there were many questions posed to our guest presenters. Due to time constraints, not all of these were able to be answered. Our presenters have now addressed these questions post the event.

Presenter Q&A: Claire Scott

Q: *Planning can require planting of vegetation, can it also require maintenance of this vegetation over time?*

A: A requirement for property owners to maintain their gardens is not possible through the planning scheme. This would be very difficult to police and labour intensive and costly for Council to enforce. Other authorities/legislation require property owners to maintain vegetation for safety reasons e.g. bushfire protection, keeping vegetation clear of power lines etc.

Q: *What is the best way to communicate the concept of 'community ownership' of the value of vegetation to us all in Maroondah, as per indigenous culture.*

A: The concept of 'community ownership' of vegetation is best communicated through elevating its importance, and clearly articulating Council's position on the value and benefits of vegetation. This can be done via objectives and strategies together with numerical requirements in the planning scheme, and well as through events such as the recent 'Living Maroondah' symposium.

Q: *How can Maroondah reinforce the urgency of protecting significant foliage from intensive development? Developers seem to laugh at fines imposed.*

A: Maroondah can strengthen its planning scheme in relation to the protection and provision of vegetation, in order to emphasise its importance and urgency. Fines are imposed through the Planning and Environment Act, and Council and community members could lobby the State Government regarding an increase in penalties.

Contact us

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