

OFF TRACKS

MP FIRES

INAPPROVED WALK

# **REPORT IT!**

Although our staff carry out regular patrols, we can't be everywhere at once.
The City relies on the public to be its eyes and ears, and we are seeking your help.

If you see any of these unlawful activities taking place, please use the "Report It" function on the City of Albany's website at www.albany.wa.gov.au. You can also report it by contacting the City on 6820 3000 (during business hours) and asking for the Reserves Team. For afterhours emergencies such a fallen trees, please call 6820 3940. For dog attacks and stray animals, please contact the Rangers on 6820 3999.



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## WHAT IS BUSH WATCH?

The City of Albany values the natural beauty of our region and we take pride in looking after Albany's bushland reserves.

Bush Watch is a program to raise community awareness of what is permissible on City of Albany managed, bushland reserves, and what activities are not permitted or require a permit.

The Bush Watch program also encourages people to keep an eye on bushland for any threats, and to report them to the City.

#### BUSHLAND IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE

- It provides habitat for native animals, plants and insects to live, eat and breed.
- Bushland is a great place to spend time enjoying nature, creating a feeling of wellbeing.
- It helps hold soil together, preventing wind and water erosion.
- It improves water quality as plants act as filters to clean water.
- Bushland forms shelter belts, which protect stock and crops from extreme weather, and therefore improving productivity.

## PERMITS TO UNDERTAKE WORKS

- Permits are required to undertake works on City of Albany managed land. Application forms are available on the City of Albany's website for permits to:
- 1. Clear vegetation on City land to maintain or install a new fence.
- 2. Develop (e.g. install a garden) your road verge.
- 3. Construct a crossover (i.e. driveway) from the road to your property.

If an application form for the type of works you want to undertake is not available, contact the City of Albany on 6820 3000 and your enquiry will be registered as a Customer Service Request. It will then be assessed, and you will be notified on the outcome.

Please also see the Verge Vegetation Information Sheet for more information. If you are not sure, please contact the City of Albany.

### UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES IN BUSHLAND

One of the ways the City protects the environment is to put in place Local Laws that make it unlawful to damage flora or to remove plants from a reserve (including road verges) without a permit. Other activities that are unlawful on reserves include:

- planting without a permit;
- clearing for views or reducing fire fuel levels;
- dumping of rubbish and green waste;
- collecting fire wood;
- driving off tracks and on vegetation;
- lighting a fire without a permit;
- erecting an unapproved structure; and
- building bike or walk trails without a permit.

On the spot fines of up to \$350 may be issued to any person who is found to be carrying out any of the unlawful activities, and penalties of up to \$5,000 may be applied if the City decides to prosecute the offender in court.

For more information about the City's local laws, including the Property Local Law 2011, visit the City of Albany website at: www.albany.wa.gov.au/council/council/ local-law/.