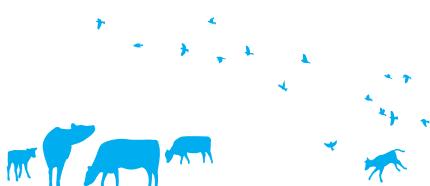


Improving linear corridors to increase farm productivity and support wildlife



What are linear corridors?

Shelter belts, wind breaks, watercourses, road verges, paddock trees, landscape plantings or any long narrow strip of plants.

There is strong science showing that well structured shelter belts and wind breaks not only support wildlife but improve productivity on farms generally.

They protect stock in adverse weather, and improve survival rates and health of stock (i.e. stock put on more weight and are less stressed with better shelter).

They provide habitat for small native birds and other wildlife which can help pollinate plants and control problem insects. Improved biodiversity is known to improve general farm productivity.

Small native birds such as wrens, robins, finches, silvereyes, thornbills and jacky winters are under threat from loss of habitat. They require midstorey and understorey native plants for food, protection, nest sites and within corridors so they can travel safely between larger areas of native vegetation.

Improving habitat values in linear corridors in both rural and urban areas will help our native birds move around safely, and improve the health of their populations.

Before



Create a map of your property showing your planned habitat network.

Increase width of linear corridor to at least 20 m, but preferably 50 m or more by planting local native plants.



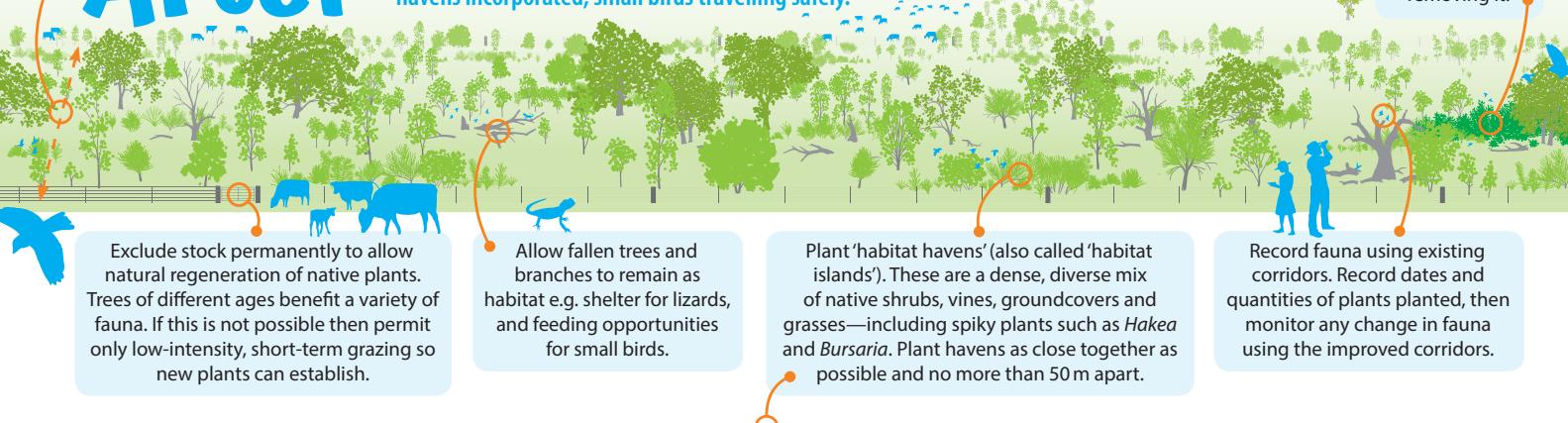
Through additional planting, connect to other linear corridors, such as road verges, travelling stock routes and watercourses, and also connect to areas of remnant native plants, regrowth native plants and paddock trees.

Restrict spraying of fertiliser and pesticides near linear corridors.

What looks messy to us might be valuable habitat—resist the urge to tidy up and mow.

Manage weeds, but if a weed patch is home to small birds, keep it until native habitat has grown before removing it.

After



How to plant a Habitat Haven

Inner sanctum—taller native shrubs

Protective circle of spiky plants

A variety of shorter shrubs for added food opportunities

Grasses and groundcovers

Plant local native shrubs and ground covers close together (about 30 cm apart) in as large an area as possible—preferably as a circle or rectangle (quantities are based on minimum size of 7 m diameter).

e.g. *Acacia*, saltbush, *Grevillea*, *Ozothamnus*, *Leptospermum*. Minimum 3 plants.

e.g. *Hakea*, *Bursaria*, *Banksia*. Minimum 17 plants.

e.g. *Dianella*, *Einadia*, *Phyllanthus*, *Lomandra*. Minimum 36 plants.

e.g. kangaroo and wallaby grass, *Microlaena*, *Pratia*, native violets, native geranium. Minimum 44 plants.

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For more information contact Habitat Network info@iewf.org, see www.habitatnetwork.org, and talk to your local Landcare people landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups about suitable local native plants and how to obtain them.

References: What Makes a Good Farm for Wildlife and Wildlife Conservation in Farm Landscapes, both by David B. Lindenmayer (lead author).

