



# Green space treatments in Strathnairn

## Contact

Fenner School of Environment and Society,  
The Australian National University

Philip Gibbons  
Philip.Gibbons@anu.edu.au



Old trees provide a range of habitats for native mammals, reptiles, insects and birds, that cannot be provided by younger trees. Their large limbs, dead branches, tree hollows, peeling bark and logs provide all sorts of roosting and nesting opportunities, as well as producing seed, pollen and nectar.

The land used for the first stages of development at Ginninderry is open pasture, dotted with mature eucalypts in excess of 100 years old and in varying degrees of physical condition. Some are of high quality and contain hollows. Once lost, these trees cannot be readily replaced.





The Ginninderry team have been working with researchers from the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National

University to look at how we can not only keep as many of the mature trees within our development, but also provide new growth, habitat and support for these trees over their lifetime and beyond. The objective of this study is to evaluate the biodiversity, social and economic outcomes of two alternative greenspace typologies and compare this with conventional greenspace management.

Working in partnership with the Fenner School of Environment and Society and our landscape architects, we have designed a range of open spaces in Strathnairn where the three different treatments are in use.

A description of each treatment type is provided here along with a map indicating where each type is in use.



-  Fenner Treatment 1:  
Traditional treatment
-  Fenner Treatment 2:  
Mulching and mass planting
-  Fenner Treatment 3:  
Community restoration
-  Open Space

### Fenner Treatment 1: Traditional treatment

Treatment 1 involves current “park-like” management, typical of most urban green space. The ground-layer is mown several times a year, trees are managed for public safety, including removal of hazardous limbs (e.g. dead limbs), fallen branches are removed and noxious weeds may be sprayed. This treatment includes no planting or sowing of native plants.



### Fenner Treatment 2: Mulching and mass planting

Each mature tree is mulched under its dripline (the area directly underneath the tree). The mulched area is then surrounded by shrub plantings and smaller groundcovers, creating new habitats for small birds. New Eucalyptus seedlings are planted to eventually become the next cohort of mature trees.

Fallen branches are left in place, and new logs introduced to provide habitat for insects, lizards and birds. These logs also create great places to sit and to play.



### Fenner Treatment 3: Community restoration

The purpose of this treatment is to restore the critically endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodland using a method developed by Greening Australia. This involves planting native grasses and wildflowers within the urban open space. Shrubs are also planted to provide habitats for small birds, and new Eucalyptus seedlings introduced to one day, replace mature tree on the site. Fallen branches from the trees are also left and new logs introduced to create woody habitats.

