



Priority actions when bushwalking...

Everyday things you can do

- Use designated fireplaces or bring a fuel or gas stove. Always comply with firebans and do not cut standing timber, alive or dead, for firewood. Do not leave fires unattended.
- Where there are no toilet facilities, bury human waste at least 100m away from watercourses at a depth of 15cm or take it home with you.
- Leave domestic pets at home. The lasting scent left by domestic pets can easily scare animals and birds away from their homes.
- Don't feed birds and animals – it's bad for their diet and can encourage them to become dependent on humans for food. Secure all food in animal-proof containers.
- Collect and stow all rubbish including unwanted food scraps. Discarded organic litter such as apple cores and citrus peel adds nutrients to the soil increasing the spread of weeds. Collect any other rubbish you see on the way – leave the bush untouched.
- Stay on the track even if it's rough or muddy. Walk on rocks and hard ground wherever possible and avoid wet areas on the track as this just widens the bog area. Do not walk on edges or cut corners on zigzagging tracks as this increases erosion and scarring.
- Choose footwear to suit the terrain and tread lightly. Lightweight walking boots or even running shoes are usually all you will need.
- Keep group sizes small to lessen the environmental impact.
- Spread out rather than follow in each other's footsteps. Tramping easily damages delicate vegetation and a plant is more likely to recover if walked on only once.
- Don't pick flowers or break branches – even if you think the wood is dead, it provides an important habitat for many insects and other animals.
- At the end of each trip reflect on the outing. Take a moment to think about how you could lessen your 'footprint' and 'tread more softly' on your next walk.

How can I find out more?

Visit www.livingthing.net.au

