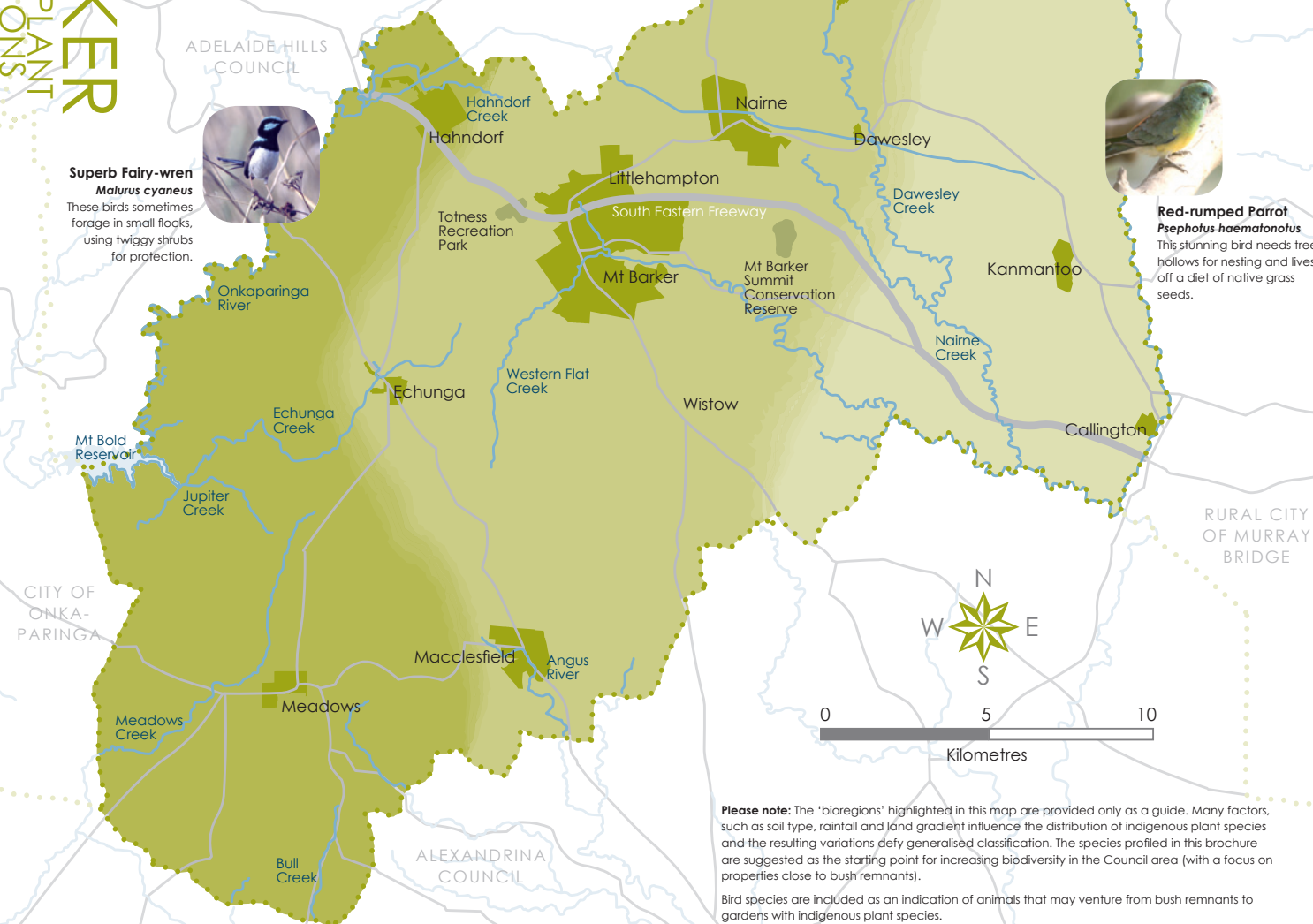


This map divides the Council area into three broad 'bioregions' characterised by various factors such as soil type and rainfall. These factors strongly influence the distribution of indigenous plants.

When considering plants for your garden, first check to see if you already have local plant species. If you are not sure, seek out help from the Council.

The next step is to locate your property in the bioregion map and to choose a few plants (ranging from trees to groundcovers). Ask your plant supplier about how and where to plant your seedlings. Now you're ready to start an indigenous garden.

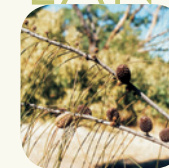


EASTERN BIOREGION PLANT SPECIES

Open grassy woodlands of Drooping She-oak, Peppermint Box and other mallees once dominated the often stony landscapes from north of Harrogate to the west of Callington. These woodlands were intermingled with native tussock grasslands.

The Red-rumped Parrot (pictured) depends on a diet of seeds, often provided by Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby Grasses and other indigenous plants of these threatened grassy ecosystems.

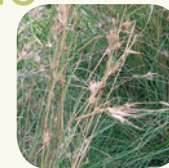
These grasses, and other plants of this bioregion require little water and will often thrive in poor soils.



Drooping She-oak



Sticky Hop Bush



Kangaroo Grass

Drooping She-oak *Allocasuarina verticillata**
A very hardy, medium-sized shade tree with weeping branches and needle-like leaves. The cone-like seed pods are a chief food source for the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo and other parrot and lorikeet species.

Sticky Hop Bush *Dodonaea viscosa*
A small shrub with lush, 'fuzzy' foliage and reddish flowers that emerge in late spring. A good drought-resistant screening plant and a favourite with finches, parrots and ants.

Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra**
An excellent contrast plant for borders or mass plantings. The dark green foliage is lush (and fire safe) throughout summer and complements brown, triangular seed heads. Many grazing mammals (including kangaroos) eat this deep-rooted, perennial grass. The tussocky form provides protection for lizards and insects.

Other garden species Rock Correa*, Native Apricot, Running Postman, Berry Saltbush, and Golden Wattle*.

CENTRAL BIOREGION PLANT SPECIES

Blue, Red, Pink and Manna Gum forests once studded the landscapes around the rapidly-expanding Mount Barker of today.

Mt Barker Summit, Totness Park and other remnant patches of these eucalypts and their understorey of flowering plants provide habitat for dwindling populations of animal species, including the nectar-loving Eastern Spinebill (pictured).

Any of the listed flowering species are recommended for most settings, with the eucalypt species more suited to larger allotments and rural properties.



Pink Gum



Flax Lily



Native Lilac

Pink Gum *Eucalyptus fasciculosa*
A medium-sized, shapely tree often associated with larger Blue and Red gums. The Pink Gum's white blossoms are visited by bees and nectar-feeding bird species in autumn. Mature trees (best suited to larger properties) provide excellent habitat.

Flax Lily *Dianella species**
A spring-flowering plant with blue-green strap-like leaves and bright blue flowers on a multi-stemmed stalk. The densely clumped form is popular with landscape gardeners. The fruit is sought after by lizards and birds.

Native Lilac *Hardenbergia violacea**
This is one of the District's most widespread and vigorous climbers. The purple blossoms bring welcome colour to gardens in late winter. Ants are attracted to the seeds and the flowers are popular with nectar-eating birds and insects.

Other garden species Tussock Grass, Guinea-flowers*, Silver Banksia* and Prickly Tea-tree.

WESTERN BIOREGION PLANT SPECIES

Heathy woodlands of Stringybark and Candlebark still stand in remnants around Hahndorf, east of the Onkaparinga River.

Low-lying country not far south of Meadows includes some of the Fleurieu Peninsula's swamp ecosystems. These swamps support rare water-loving plants and the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren. This bird's relative, the Superb Fairy-wren (pictured), can be enticed to visit gardens with protective indigenous shrubs.

Many types of plants are suited to this bioregion's higher rainfall and soil types, with boggy conditions especially suited to sedges and rushes.



Blackwood



Beaked Hakea



Pale Rush

Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon*
A stately, upright, medium-sized tree with thick leafy foliage and coarse black bark. The creamy ball-shaped flowers are frequented by insects and honeyeaters in winter and spring. Blackwood grows well in moist or waterlogged areas.

Beaked Hakea *Hakea rostrata*
A twiggy shrub with spectacular sprays of white flowers in early winter. Wirra groups of Beaked Hakea provide protective habitat for bandicoots, wrens and other wildlife and its rough, woody fruit is a good food source for cockatoos and parrots.

Pale Rush *Juncus pallidus**
A graceful plant usually found fringing water bodies, yet adaptable enough to grow in almost any type of soil (often with little water). The tubular spines grow to about chest height and their clustered seed heads are home to various species of spiders, butterflies and native wasps. In an aquatic environment, the roots and stems help prevent bank erosion and provide foraging places for finches, wetland birds and native fish.

Other garden species Twiggy Bush-pea, Heath Tea-tree, Twiggy Daisy* and Irongrasses*.

*Plant is naturally widespread and likely to grow well if planted in other bioregions.