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# Council Update

## Conversation with the GM

### Firewood Collection

With the cooler weather fast approaching, this is a timely reminder for all of us who use wood heaters to warm our homes. If you don't buy-in firewood and rely on collecting firewood, please be aware you may only collect firewood on private property with permission of the landowner.

It is important that firewood collection is sustainable and does not impact on native fauna which may use hollow logs or dead wood as habitat. Our local possums, bats and birds that live in hollow logs use fallen timber and dead trees, leaf litter and branches as shelter.

A few simple changes can make firewood collection more sustainable:

- Leave any established hollow logs;
  - Don't remove all the wood from an area - leave some behind to remain as habitat;
  - Look for smaller pieces of timber which are less likely to be used by native animals in the future;
  - Plant a tree on your property to replace wood removed;
  - If you purchase wood from a supplier, ask them about the sustainability of their firewood.
- Collecting firewood, burning or removing dead trees from our roadside verges, Travelling Stock Routes or other Council Parks or Reserves is not permitted.

Vegetation within roadside corridors and reserves, including dead trees or fallen timber, provide habitat for native animals such as lizards, birds, bats and smaller insects which are protected species.

If you see a dead tree, it is probably hundreds of years old and is home to many native animals, including nesting birds and microbats which are unique to the Tablelands NSW region.

Council takes great pride in conserving the native vegetation and habitats that make up our riverbanks, parklands and roadside reserves across the region.

If you see someone collecting firewood, or other material such as plants or rocks, please report it to Council on Ph 6368 2104 or email [council@blayney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blayney.nsw.gov.au).

We will need the date and time, location, what activity you observed and if a vehicle was present and if possible, provide Council with the vehicle make, model, colour and registration number.



