



## TREE PLANTING TO OFFSET ROAD WORKS AND RESTORE RIVER RED GUM CORRIDOR

Dubbo Regional Council will plant 1,100 endemic species, to help rejuvenate the riparian corridor within Regand Park. The park is adjacent to the Macquarie River. The planting is part of an environmental offset planting requirement from the recent work completed on the Old Mendooran Reconstruction Alignment project.

Mayor of the Dubbo Region Ben Shields said this is a win win situation.

“This is a great project by staff at Dubbo Regional Council. It’s very important to offset the impact we have had on our environment brought about through major realignment works and to additionally take care and improve our river corridor.

By planting this amount of trees we will be fulfilling our environmental obligations from the roadworks on Old Mendooran Road while enhancing the vegetation within the riparian corridor and further providing forage opportunities for native wildlife,” Clr Shields said.

Dubbo Regional Council’s Open Space Co-ordinator Ben Pilon said approximately 4 hectares will be planted as part of the restoration works in accordance with Council’s River Red Gum Restoration Plan.

“By using Council’s River Red Gum Restoration Plan, it will ensure that revegetation works are undertaken in a manner that will assist in the restoration of the original local riverine vegetation community within Regand Park”

As part of the project approximately 60 exotic trees in the area have been identified as diseased and will require appropriate removal and disposal.

“Exotic species such as Claret Ash were planted along the river corridor some years ago. These trees are now diseased and in need of removal and to be appropriately disposed of. These exotic trees also create the risk of potential seed load into the Macquarie River and the Macquarie Marshes further downstream, so it’s only appropriate we look to replace them with a native species,” Mr Pilon said.

To irrigate the new trees staff have installed an irrigation system in the area and are utilising recaptured backwash water from the John Gilbert Water Plant to help in the establishment of the trees.

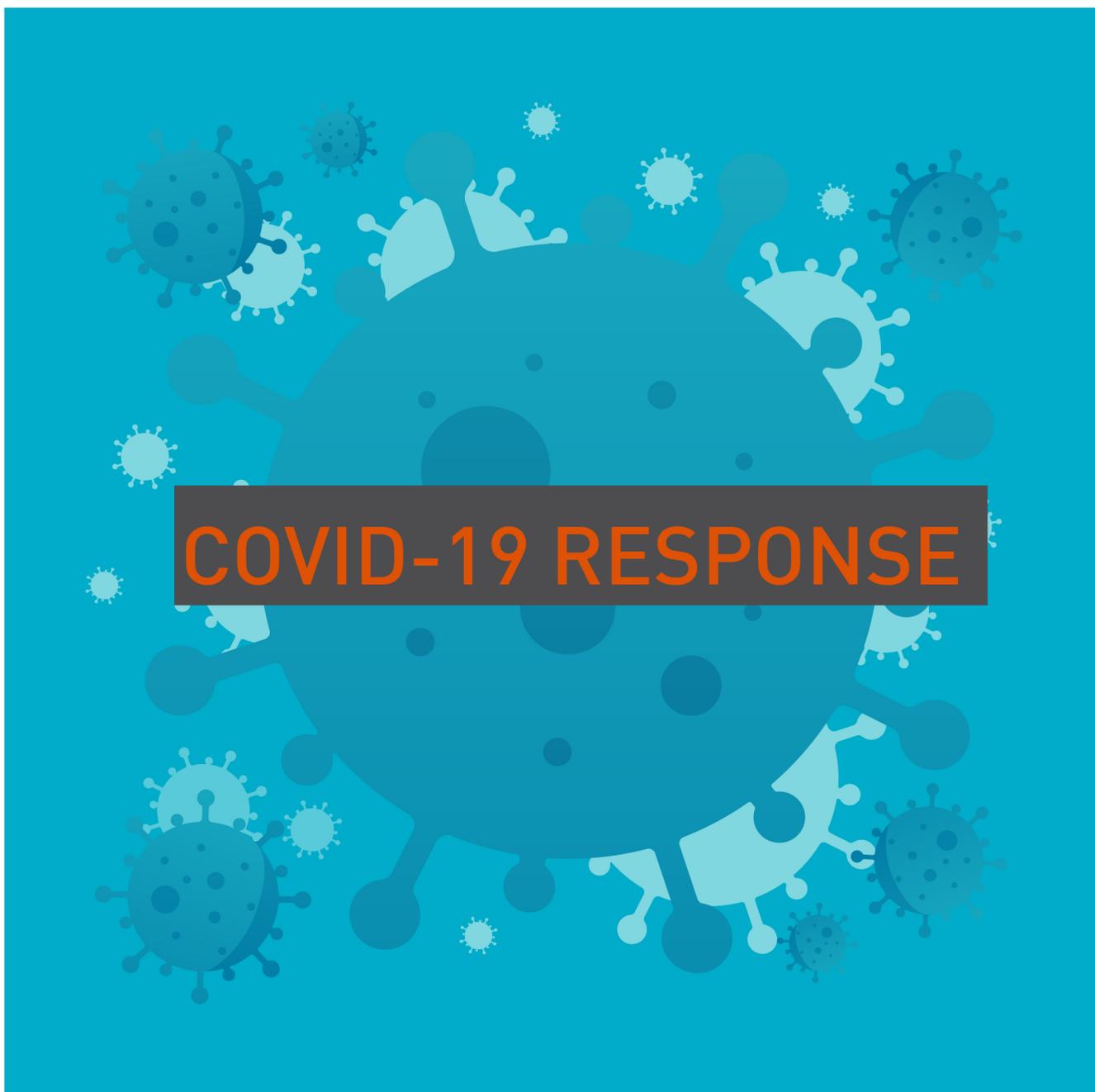
A number of advanced tree stock, including the dominant species the River Red Gum will be planted and accompanied by a selection of native shrubs and grasses that reflect the original ecosystem of the area.

“It’s important we re-establish the ecological community along the river corridor to help restore its biodiversity value. The rehabilitation of Regand Park by planting localised trees, shrubs and grasses which will encourage the native wildlife back into the area,” Mr Pilon said.

Works are scheduled to commence 9 September 2019 and be completed by the end of October 2019 with the assistance of local community groups.

Last Edited: 09 Sep 2019

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