



## Leave no Trace when walking and camping on the Bibbulmun Track

“**Leave no Trace**” is the key to leaving the Track, its campsites and the biodiversity of the Track environment in the same condition as you found them. Indeed, the goal of the seven **Leave no Trace** principles is that the Track and environment are in *better* condition than before you passed by.

The Bibbulmun Track passes through some areas of great natural beauty and diversity. You can help to conserve them and the Track itself and its facilities by being guided by the seven principles of **Leave no Trace** in all of your actions on the Track and at campsites.

### Plan ahead and prepare

- Carry a map, inform CALM and someone at home of your intentions.
- Be aware of all restrictions relating to the area you are walking - for example fire weather warnings and whether campfires are permitted.
- Make yourself aware of current local conditions such as diversions due to prescribed burns or wildfire, inlet crossings and safety of beaches by using the latest track news web page and ringing the local CALM district office.
- Plan your route and drop-offs and pick-ups around designated vehicle access points.
- Remove all unnecessary packaging before you set out.
- Pack suitable clothing – it’s better to have warm clothing and no fire than removing wildlife habitat to burn in order to keep warm.

### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Use designated tent sites wherever possible.
- Stay on the Track, don’t cut corners through the bush and stick to the internal trails at campsites to avoid trampling vegetation.
- Keep to the middle of the track even when it is underwater.
- On sandy, coastal track walk wide of the centre to spread the impact over the whole width of the track.

### Dispose of waste properly

- Carry a bag for your rubbish at all times.
- Minimise your use of canned foods.
- Pack it in, pack it out. All wastes which cannot be burned should be carried out. Remember - foil, tin cans and glass do not burn and plastics and polystyrene foams produce noxious fumes when burnt!
- Don’t bury waste at campsites - pack it out.
- A toilet is provided at each camp site - please preserve the environment and use these facilities. Where this is not possible, human waste should be buried 150 mm deep, at least 100 metres from any water source. Sanitary products should be packed out.
- Wash your dishes - and yourself - well away from any water source to prevent contamination by food particles, soaps or bodily excretions. Wherever possible avoid using soaps or detergents.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent can easily wash off your face or hands into streams and pools – take care not to pollute these watercourses with chemicals.

### **Leave what you find**

- Grass trees grow slowly - take care not to break the fronds.
- Enjoy the wildflowers - and leave them in place.
- Rocks are homes to many small creatures - leave them as they are.
- Avoid trampling vegetation by staying on defined tracks and using existing campsites.
- Avoid the spread of 'dieback' (soil-borne virus which kills native plants). Observe vehicle access restrictions – although many roads are shown crossing the track, only those marked with the car symbol can be used as access points. Use the purpose built boot cleaning stations to clean mud off boots.
- Be careful not to introduce or spread non-native species (e.g. don't throw your pips and apple core into the bush).

### **Minimise campfire impacts**

- *Pack a fuel stove* - and resist the temptation to have a fire. Fuel stoves are the way of the future. Dead, fallen wood is habitat for many small animals.
- Pack a candle or tea lights for a comforting glow at night.
- Use only small pieces of dead, fallen wood that can be broken by hand and keep your fire small.
- Make sure campfire is completely extinguished before moving on.
- Observe all seasonal and local campfire restrictions and bans.
- Where fires are permitted, use only the concrete fire rings provided. Do not build additional fireplaces anywhere.
- If you must store firewood in the shelter, make a small, neat, tidy pile.

### **Respect wildlife**

- Don't feed animals or birds and clean up even the tiniest food scraps.
- Secure food bags tightly and hang from rafter if necessary.
- Protect vegetation and other habitat around campsites.
- Leave your pets at home. Dogs are not allowed in national parks, water catchments or nature reserves. As a majority of the Bibbulmun Track runs through these areas dogs are not permitted. The Track is also regularly baited for foxes with 1080 poison, which can be fatal for dogs even in tiny quantities.

### **Be considerate of other walkers**

- Treat the shelters as you would your home - use the brush and rake provided to keep them clean and tidy.
- Keep noise levels down at campsites, only use radio with earphones, and be discrete about using mobile and satellite phones.
- Don't light big, smoky fires.
- Avoid blocking the track with tents or yourself during lunch stops or breaks.
- Remind any non-pedestrian traffic that the Track is for walkers only and report them to the nearest Departmental office.
- Track shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Large groups (8 or more) may only occupy shelters after 6pm.