

Know Your Source...

Where did your garden grow?

As individuals we buy, sell, clear and reconstruct landscapes. We need to look deeper into the materials chosen, the way we design new landscapes (pictured) and remodel existing ones. We need to consider the materials used in constructing our gardens. Where have they come from, how far have they travelled, what were the direct and indirect costs to the environment, whether through destruction of habitat, air and water pollution or simply what happens to the construction waste.



We cannot always be reliant on the contractor we have employed. As individuals, we need to question where particular materials have been sourced from which will be used in constructing and renovating our gardens. It is in the sourcing of materials that we can significantly reduce our environmental impacts.

Examples include:

- Impermeable surfaces, such as concrete, do not allow rain water to penetrate the ground. These impermeable surfaces are made up of a range of quarried materials extracted from the natural environment. They are generally high in embodied energy and can have an undesirable impact on the ambient temperatures of our suburbs.
- Timber, where have we sourced it from? How far has it travelled? Is it from Asian rain forests and contributing to the future extinction of species? Is it sourced in Australia from old growth forests which are one of our greatest natural carbon sinks? Has it been sourced from re-growth forests that have high conservation values, and are home to threatened and endangered species?

We, as individuals, can make a difference to the sustainability of our urban landscapes and reduce the impacts on our natural environment by minimising construction waste and carefully sourcing materials. It is important we understand the direct and indirect impacts of our choices in the process of building, renovating and living in urban landscapes. We are only custodians of the earth for the present, and there are generations that will follow us who we must also consider. By making informed and careful choices, we will protect threatened species, our water ways, our environment and the future.

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AA & IA
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down to earth

sustainable landscape design, construction & consultation

AA & IA ecoscapes:
qualified horticulturalists,
designers & sustainability
professionals working
towards environmentally
sustainable outcomes,
creating contemporary
Australian landscapes

- creating habitat to enhance biodiversity
- harvesting storm water & re-using grey water for water conservation
- designing climate sensible landscapes for carbon avoidance



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