



FACTSHEET

# Settlement Vegetation

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**Habitat type:** Settlement vegetation

**Habitat description:**

The Settlement area is a highly modified habitat, due to human impact and on-going development. The urban landscape is particularly evident in the main Settlement (Thompson Bay), Geordie Bay settlement and the Kingstown Barracks.

There are many introduced (non-native) plant species that grow in the main Settlement and along the roads and pathways. Some of these plants were brought to the Island on purpose in the 19th Century for gardens, orchards, to create shade and to replace cut-down trees. Examples of these sorts of plants are the Norfolk Island pine, Tuart and Coastal Moort. Other plants were brought by accident like onion weeds.

The daily movement of people, goods, vehicles and machinery can bring seeds or plant material onto the Island which can be harmful for the native species. Visitors can

help keep the habitats of Rottnest Island healthy by not bringing plant material with them on their visit.

**Conservation Status:**

Not listed

**Local species:**

**Native:**

Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*)

**Non-native:**

Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) and Coastal Moort (*Eucalyptus utilis*), Onion Weed (*Asphodelus fistulosus*), Onion Weed (*Trachyandra divaricate*), Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sancta*), Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), Australian Raven (*Corvus corax*).

### Threats:

The major threat to the Settlement areas is human impact due to:

- Litter,
- chemical or waste contamination,
- Erosion.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the exotic trees found in the Settlement have heritage values and have been placed on the RIA's significant heritage tree register.

The Norfolk Island Pines behind The Basin beach are thought to have been planted in the 1940s.

The two Canary Island Date Palms were planted in 1938 by William Somerville. Mr William Somerville was a member of the Rottneest Island Board from 1929 -1951. Somerville started the continued program of tree planting and reforestation of the Island.