

## Please care for pythons and their habitat

# Protect our pythons

We are fortunate to have the endangered Inland Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota metcalfei*) living in our area, on the eastern and western sides of the Warby Range and in the Chesney Vale Hills.

The Carpet Python's diet consists mainly of rabbits, however, they also eat rodents, lizards and nestling birds. Female Carpet Pythons breed every third or fourth year, so it is important to care for the pythons we have.

Non-venomous and slow moving, the python is no threat to humans. Like many of our native animals, it is nocturnal. *If you see one, don't kill it.* Treat it with respect, as you would any other wild native animal.

You can help us by reporting a sighting of an Inland Carpet Python. Please contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.  
Email: [daniel.pendavingh@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.pendavingh@delwp.vic.gov.au)

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# Ways to help protect the Inland Carpet Python and its habitat:

## **Fence remnant vegetation**

Pythons and their prey need safe, undisturbed places to hide, live and move safely throughout their home-range. They do not generally like to occupy open ground.

## **Create “python ladders”**

Leave branches that rest against trees so pythons can easily access nests and hollows to feed on nestlings, such as cockatoos, magpies and galahs.



## **Undertake regular 1080 fox baiting**

on your property, as the python is easy prey for a fox. Coordinated baiting between neighbours is an efficient way to reduce fox populations.

Visit [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/1080](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/1080)

for more information on requirements for fox baiting.

## **Avoid using highly toxic rodent baits**

Consider using alternatives for rodent control such as snap traps and live-capture traps and make your house and garden less attractive to rodents.

For more information, visit

[www.birdlife.org.au/rodent-control](http://www.birdlife.org.au/rodent-control).

## **Destroy rabbit warrens in cooler months**

Pythons like to shelter in rabbit burrows in summer to keep cool and enjoy a rabbit feast. Destroying warrens in the cooler months means the Carpet Python is unlikely to be inside.

## **Avoid removing rocks and logs**

Keep fallen timber where possible, especially large hollow logs, retain dead standing trees and do not disturb rock outcrops.

Pythons do not like to move more than a few hundred metres across open ground due to the threat of predation.

## **Prevent pets, such as dogs and cats from wandering**

They are a threat to pythons, especially smaller individuals. Through disturbance and predation, cats and dogs have an impact on all wildlife (mammals, birds and other reptiles).

## **Drive with “python awareness”**

especially on cooler spring and summer nights when pythons like to lie on the bitumen to warm up.

To explore funding possibilities to support habitat protection, contact the Secretary of the Warby Range Landcare Group.  
Email [secretary.wrlg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.wrlg@gmail.com)