

## Do I need a clearing permit to control *Typha*? by Julia Cullity

Maybe you do, it will depend on the tenure of the land you are working on. *Typha orientalis* has been reclassified as native to WA and with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* coming into effect this year it means we need to update the info we included in our 2016 [Weedwatch on Typha](#). That *Typha* can become invasive within its natural range and require management to prevent disruption to wetland ecology, remains unchanged.

Land managers and volunteers working on [Typha management](#) will need a [clearing permit](#) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, unless they have an exemption. Exemptions apply for

- clearing on DBCA-managed land
- to maintain infrastructure e.g. clearing in man-made drains
- to manage transport corridors e.g. clearing roadside drains in the maintenance zone
- clearing that is part of a management plan approved under law

Private landholders, State authorities (outside of DBCA) and local government will need to apply for a clearing permit. Land managers can apply for a strategic clearing permit covering the annual maintenance of *Typha* within designated waterways and wetlands for 5–10 years. A purpose permit application ([form C2](#)) that allows clearing from time to time for ongoing maintenance should be used.

Please keep this in mind when controlling any of our [local natives that can act weedy](#).

### Contact

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## Identifying some local mushrooms by Elaine Davison

Plant diversity is one of the first things which comes to mind when thinking about the native bush, but have you ever thought there might be a similar diversity of mushrooms? Most of the time mushrooms are out of sight and out of mind, but these fungi are perennial components of the bush, albeit in a microscopic form for most of the year. Mushroom fungi are ecologically important as both mycorrhizal symbionts of many local woody plants, and decomposers of leaf litter and woody debris. Surveys of local bushlands conducted as part of the [Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project](#), and long-term surveys of Kings Park and Bold Park have shown these larger fungi are numerous, and many local species are unnamed and new to science.

Some of the commonest and most conspicuous local mushrooms are members of the mycorrhizal genus *Amanita*. The members of this genus are easy to recognise in the field, but individual species are difficult to separate and identify. Identifications in the past were based on both macroscopic appearance and microscopic characters. Modern taxonomy now includes DNA sequencing, as this gives greater confidence in the description of new species and has allowed the better characterisation of already named species. Recent work which I and my collaborators at Curtin University have undertaken, has reviewed or described about 20 local amanitas, and at least 30 more await description. A recent grant from the WA Naturalists' Club and Lotterywest will fund the DNA sequencing which assists in characterising these local species, which in turn will provide greater certainty in naming these mushrooms. One anticipated outcome of this work will be the inclusion of amanitas in [FloraBase](#), making the local species easier to identify.

### Contact

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*Amanita fibrilloses*, the peach amanita. This is a common, widely distributed local species which has a pale pink cap covered with white warts when young (top). With age, the cap colour becomes cream, and the warts become brown (above). The gills are white and the ring is at the top of the stem (top). Photo – Elaine Davison.