

# Grassy Woodland

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

97% of Grassy Woodlands have been cleared. 81% of what remains is on private land.



Figure 1. A healthy example of Grassy Woodland (Granitic outwash) near Longwood with some indicative and habitat features highlighted.

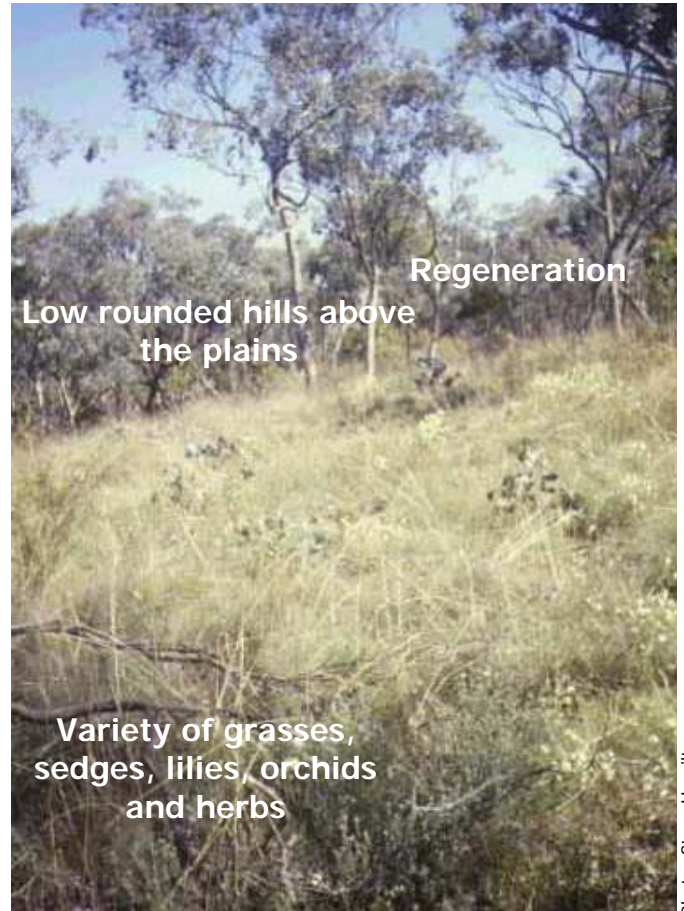


Figure 3. Another healthy example of Grassy Woodland, from Dookie Bushland Reserve. Some of the indicative and habitat features are highlighted.

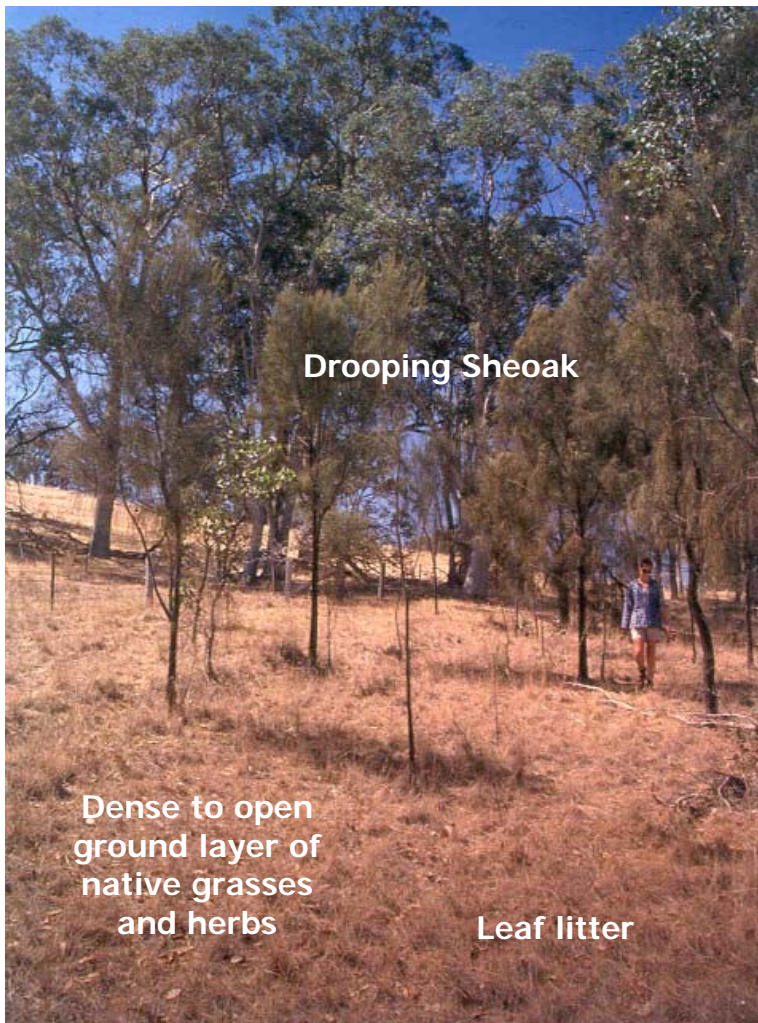


Figure 2. An example of Grassy Woodland (Rainshadow Grassy Woodland) at Mt Camel with some indicative and habitat features highlighted.



Figure 4. Another example of Grassy Woodland in good condition from the upper catchment (Gobur), with a Kangaroo Grass dominated ground layer and a Grey Box and White Box overstorey.

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### Description

Grassy Woodlands occur on lower slopes of foothills and low rounded hills above plains and floodplains, at elevations of 150-500m, and 500-750mm annual rainfall.

They are predominantly open grassy Box woodlands with a variety of grasses, including Kangaroo Grass, Red-leg Grass, Wallaby Grasses and Spear Grasses plus sedges, lilies, orchids and herbs.

The overstorey usually consists of Box species (mainly Grey Box, or White Box with Red Box) and some Blakely's Red Gum, and Drooping Sheoak in the rockier areas.

The medium to low scattered shrub layer has characteristic species of local wattles (Golden Wattle, Spreading Wattle, Gold-dust Wattle, Varnish Wattle, Lightwood) and Sweet Bursaria, with Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea and Smooth Parrot-pea.

### Species To Look Out For

**Flora:** Deans Wattle (e), Drooping She-oak and pea shrubs.

**Fauna:** Bush Stone Curlew (e) (mid and lower catchment), Tree Goanna (v) (mid and lower catchment), Regent Honeyeater (Ec) (mid and upper catchment), Striped Legless Lizard (Ve) (upper catchment).



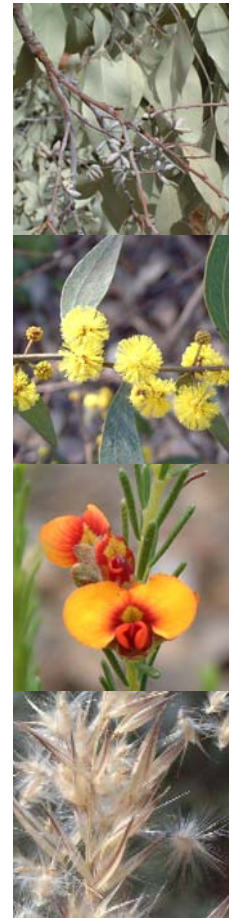
Figure 9. Tree Goanna  
Photo: Mary Titcumb



Figure 10. Striped Legless Lizard  
Photo: DSE/McCann



Figure 11. Bush Stone Curlew  
Photo: Jim Castles



Figures 5-8. White Box, Varnish Wattle, Parrot-pea, Wallaby Grass

Photos: Mary Titcumb

### Why Grassy Woodlands are Threatened

More than 97% of Grassy Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken Catchment have disappeared since European settlement. Over 81% of what remains is on private land. Many of the plants and animals that rely on this habitat are now also threatened, and some are extinct. Therefore, the support of private landholders is essential for the ongoing conservation of Grassy Woodlands.

Current threats include, **poor timing of stock grazing and overgrazing** (causes loss of native species, hinders native plant regeneration, disturbs the soil and increases nutrient levels), **isolation** (restricted movement of fauna, difficult to maintain healthy gene pool), lack of native **understorey** and **ground layer** (which attract insect eating birds helping keep the overstorey healthy, and improve soil health through fixing nitrogen), lack of natural **regeneration, soil disturbance** (eg. ploughing and pugging, favouring weed species), **weed invasion, pest animals** and loss of **tree and ground habitat** (through timber harvesting, tidying-up of fallen timber and firewood collection).

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## Management Tips

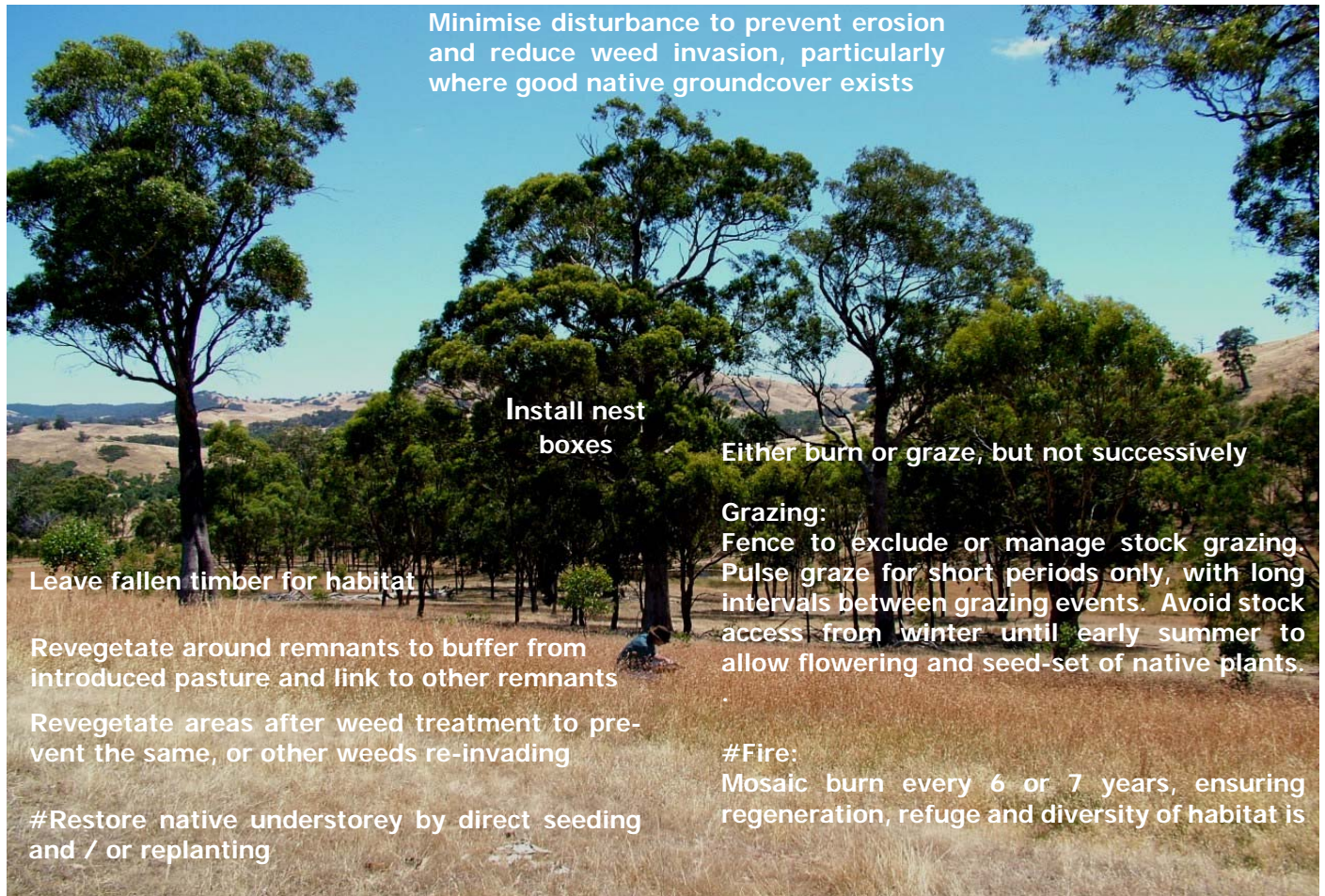


Figure 12. An example of Grassy Woodland in reasonable condition in January at Gobur (east of Seymour). The ground layer does however support a range of native species. It is dominated by Wallaby Grass (in the foreground), changing to Kangaroo Grass mid slope. Some overstorey regeneration is occurring, but the native shrub layer is absent.

# May require expert input in decision making and planning. See your local DSE, DPI or CMA representative for further advice.

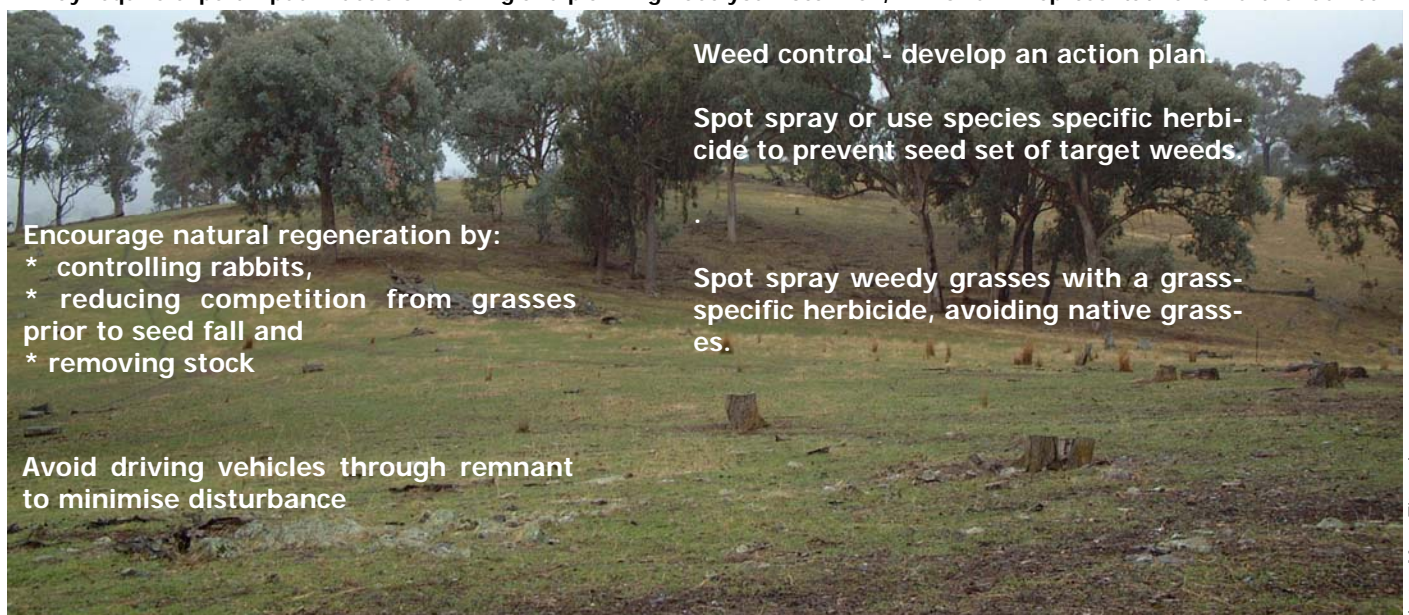


Figure 13. A degraded example of Grassy Woodland with stock camps and tracks evident. While native grasses are present on the upper slopes, annual weed control will be critical. The photograph was taken in June.

# May require expert input in decision making and planning. See your local DSE or CMA representative for further advice.



# Conservation Status

Grassy Woodland is **threatened** in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

- Victorian Riverina bioregion : **Endangered**
  - Goldfields bioregion : **Endangered**
  - Central Victorian Uplands bioregion : **Endangered**
  - Northern Inland Slopes bioregion : **Endangered**
  - Highlands - Northern Fall bioregion : **Depleted**
- Grassy Woodland includes the **nationally listed** White Box Woodland.

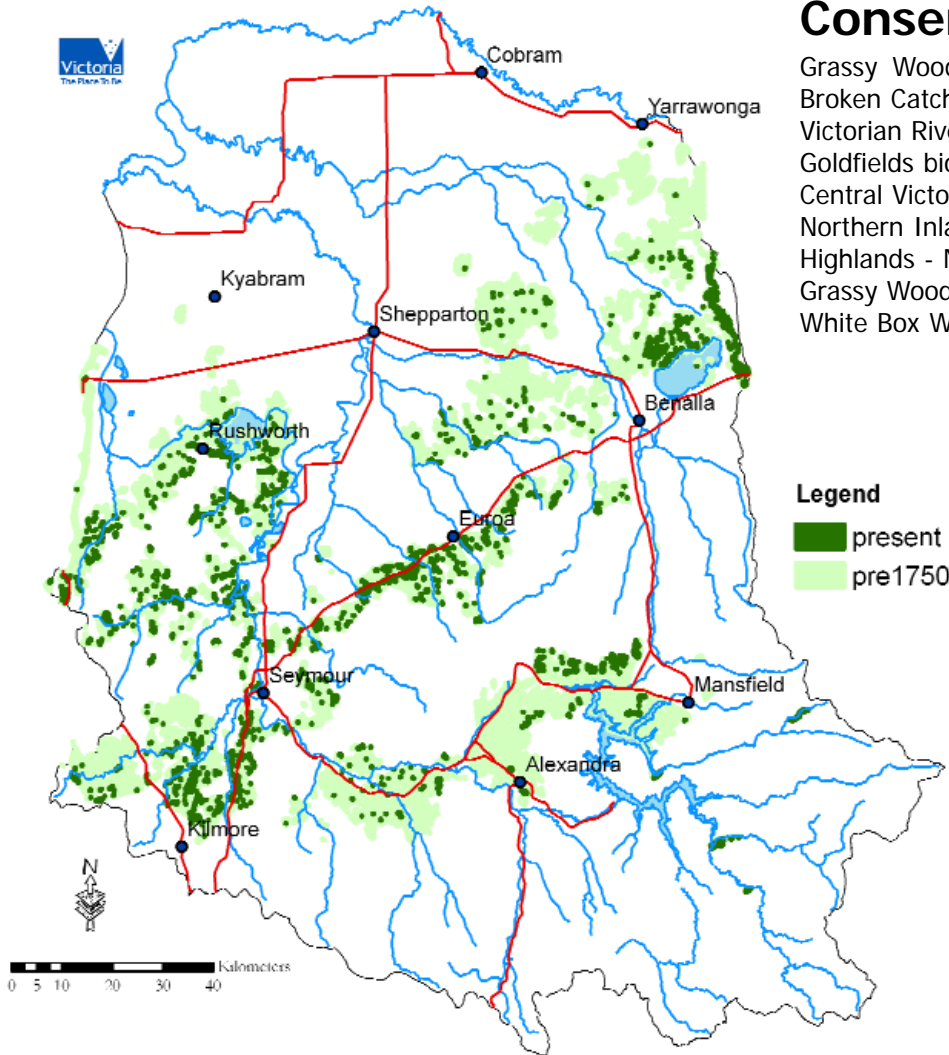


Figure 14. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Grassy Woodland and its mosaics and complexes in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The boundaries of the vegetation have been exaggerated to allow for the small scale of the map. The map was produced from Base Data from DSE Corporate Library. The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information on this map. Any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.

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