

Perched Boggy Shrubland

Endangered in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

23% of Perched Boggy Shrublands have been cleared. 98% of what remains is on private land.



Figure 1. An example of Perched Boggy Shrubland, in moderately healthy condition.

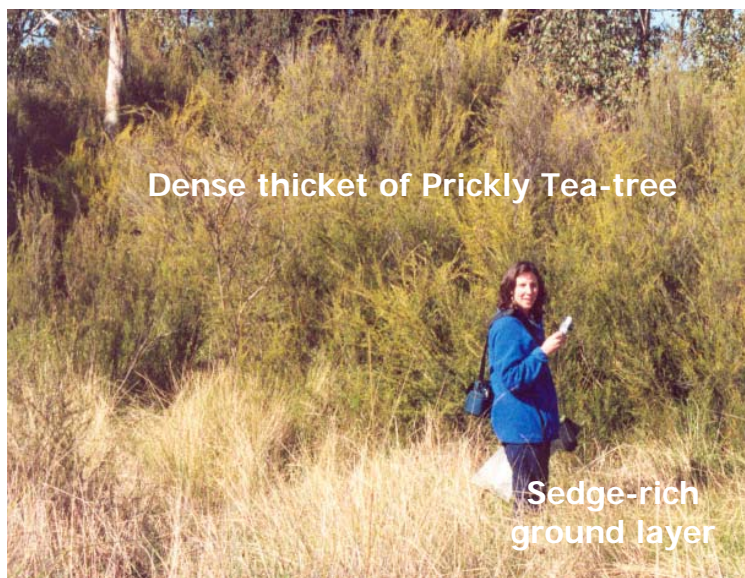


Figure 2. An example of Perched Boggy Shrubland, in moderately healthy condition, showing the dense thicket of Prickly Tea-tree.

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Description

This shrubland occurs on all aspects on very gentle slopes above drainage lines or across hillsides between drainage lines on granitic massif plateau. They are moist year round, and very wet in winter. Soils are saturated sandy clay, which may be associated with an impermeable clay layer or an hydrological phenomenon creating a soak or spring effect. They occur between 400 and 600m altitude, and 900 and 1500mm annual rainfall.

The scattered overstorey consists of Mountain Swamp Gum or Swamp Gum. This occurs over an almost impenetrable shrub layer which is a dense thicket of one or a combination of Baeckea, Prickly Tea-tree, Ovens Wattle and Heath species.

The sedge-rich ground layer of Saw-sedge, Rush, Common Woodrush and Spiny-headed Mat-rush also has small herbs and moss such as Sphagnum moss.

Species To Look Out For

Flora: Fishbone Ferns, Twig-sedge and Baeckea.

Fauna: Agile Antechinus, Common Froglet, Collared Sparrowhawk, Peron's Tree Frog.



Figures 3-6. Swamp Gum, Prickly Tea-tree, Common Woodrush and Mosses.

Photos: Mary Titcumb



Figure 7. Agile Antechinus
Photo: DSE/McCann



Figure 8. Common Froglet
Photo: DSE/McCann



Figure 9. Peron's Tree Frog
Photo: DSE/McCann

Why Perched Boggy Shrublands are Threatened

More than 23% of Perched Boggy Shrublands in the Goulburn Broken Catchment have disappeared since European settlement. Many of the plants and animals that rely on this habitat are now also threatened. Over 98% of this remains on private land. Therefore, the support of private landholders is essential for the ongoing conservation of Perched Boggy Shrublands.

Current threats include, **alteration of natural drainage regimes** (particularly through damming and draining, changes spring-soak hydrology; can result in native species loss, and disrupts the delicate balance of the remnant), **grazing** (causes weed invasion and loss of native species through selective grazing and trampling, disturbs the soil, hinders native plant regeneration, and increases nutrient levels), **weed invasion** (particularly Paspalum and Phalaris), **increases in nutrients** (favour weeds; can eliminate native plants; and cause excessive growth of some species - shading out others), **isolation** (restricted movement of fauna, difficult to maintain healthy gene pool), lack of natural **regeneration**, **soil disturbance** (eg. ploughing and pugging, favouring weed species) and **pest animals**.

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Management Tips



Figure 10. A degraded example of Perched Boggy Shrubland adjacent to a degraded Swampy Riparian Woodland. There is evidence of pugging, and much of the native vegetation has been lost.



Conservation Status

Perched Boggy Shrubland is **endangered** in the Goulburn Broken Catchment
Highlands - Northern Fall bioregion : **Endangered**

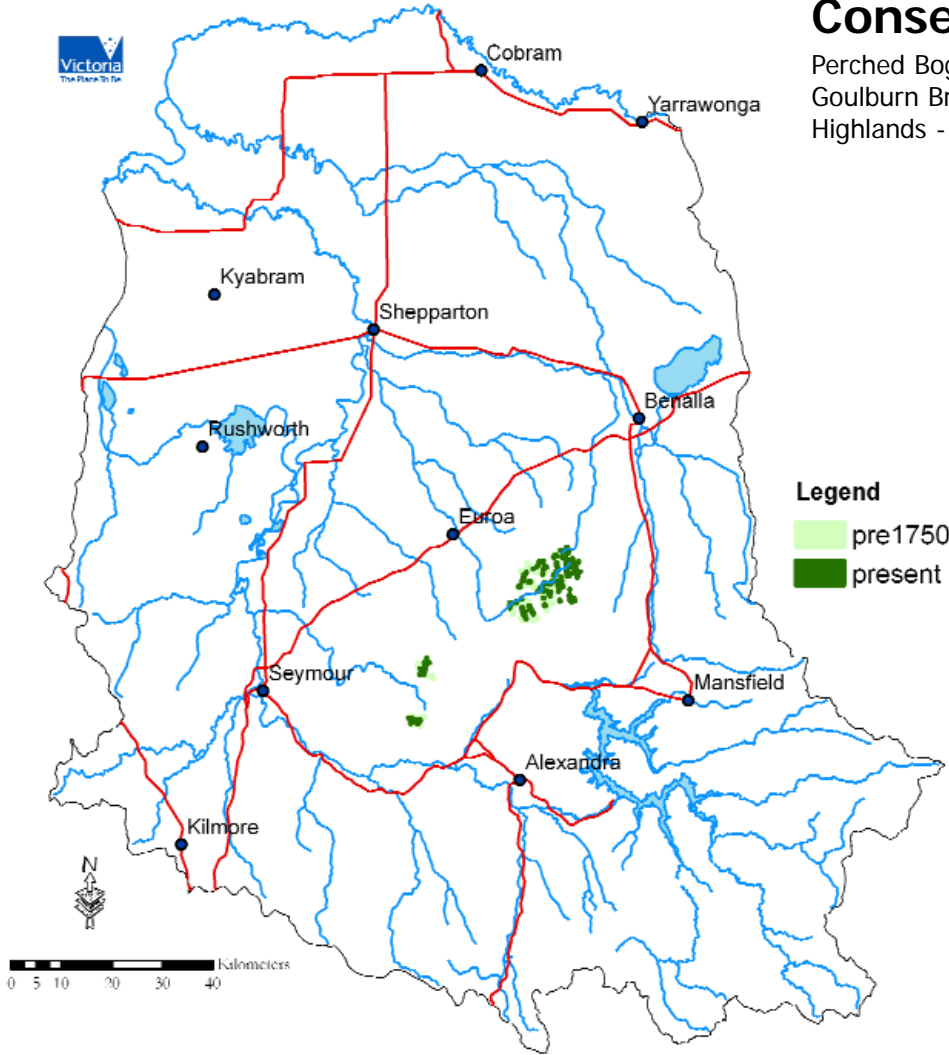


Figure 14. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Perched Boggy Shrubland and its mosaics and complexes in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The boundaries of the vegetation have been exaggerated to allow for the small scale of the map. The map was produced from Base Data from 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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Acknowledgments:



This project was a partnership between the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Department of Sustainability and Environment, and funded by NAP: *Australian Governments and local communities working together to prevent, repair and manage rising salinity and declining water quality across Australia*. Thanks to comments from Alison Oates, Biodiversity & Natural Resource Division,

DSE and Glen Johnson, Water and Biodiversity Team, North East DSE; Jenni Nunan, GIS team, DSE, Benalla for producing the maps; for Salinity & Water feedback and comments from the Biodiversity Team in the Goulburn Broken and NorthEast, DSE; the DPI LINKS officers and CMOs, the AUSTRALIA GBCMA waterways and vegetation officers and to all who contributed photographs and support.

Compiled by: Mary Titcumb, Department of Sustainability and Environment

For further information about this publication, contact:

Department of Sustainability and Environment or Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Benalla (03) 5761 1611

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ISBN 1-920742-11-5

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