

Riverine Chenopod Woodland

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

97% of Riverine Chenopod Woodland have been cleared. 74% of what remains is on private land.



Open woodland

Black Box dominated

Scattered medium shrub layer

Adjacent to floodplain

Natural regeneration

Photo: Debbie Colbourne

Figure 1. An example of Riverine Chenopod Woodland in good condition. The photograph was taken in early Summer, and is near Echuca.



Grassy ground layer

Dominated by Wallaby Grasses

Diverse range of chenopods

Photo: Sue Berwick

Figure 2. An example of a Riverine Chenopod Woodland ground layer in good condition between Katamatite and Numurkah. The photograph was taken in early Spring.

Riverine Chenopod Woodland

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Description

This is an open woodland on rarely flooded, elevated riverine terraces adjacent to the riverine floodplain on extremely infrequent shallow flooding areas with grey silty soil and in areas with an annual rainfall less than 500mm. Adjacent vegetation types are Riverine Grassy Woodland and Riverine Sedgey Forest on the more frequently flooding sites. Plains Grassy Woodland also abuts, but on the older alluvial terrace which is rarely flooded. Wetlands, such as Lignum Wetland are also commonly associated with this EVC.

The open overstorey is dominated by Black Box with River Red Gum and Grey Box occasionally present. The scattered medium shrub layer consists of species such as Mallee Wattle and River Coobah, nitre Bush and Tangled Lignum in wetter sites.

The grassy ground layer is dominated by Wallaby Grass, Spider Grass with a diverse range of chenopods including Nodding Saltbush, Saloop Saltbush, Nitre Goosefoot, Berry Saltbush, Bluebush. Other grass species include Rigid Panic, Feather Speargrass, Common Blown Grass and sometime Tussock Grass. Rushes may also be present. Herbs commonly seen include Grey Germander, Oxalis sp., Common Sida and New Holland Daisy. Low-lying, wetter sites may have Poison Pratia and Nardoo.

Species To Look Out For

Flora: Woolly Buttons.

Fauna: Powerful Owl (v), Barking Owl (e), Tree Goanna (v) and Squirrel Glider (e).



Figure 8. Barking Owl
Photo: Natasha Schedvin

Figure 9. Tree Goanna
Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 10. Squirrel Glider
Photo: Lindy Lumsden



Figures 3-7. Wallaby Grass, Chenopod, Saltbush, Common Sida.

Photos: Mary Titcumb

Why Riverine Chenopod Woodlands are Threatened

97% of Riverine Chenopod Woodlands 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, and some are extinct. Over 74% of this remains on private land. Therefore, the support of private landholders is essential for the ongoing conservation of Riverine Chenopod Woodlands.

Current threats include, **isolation** (restricted movement of fauna, difficult to maintain healthy gene pool), lack of native **understorey** and **ground layer** (which attracts insect eating birds helping keep the overstorey healthy), 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) and **lack of flooding** (regulated rivers).

Riverine Chenopod Woodland

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Management Tips

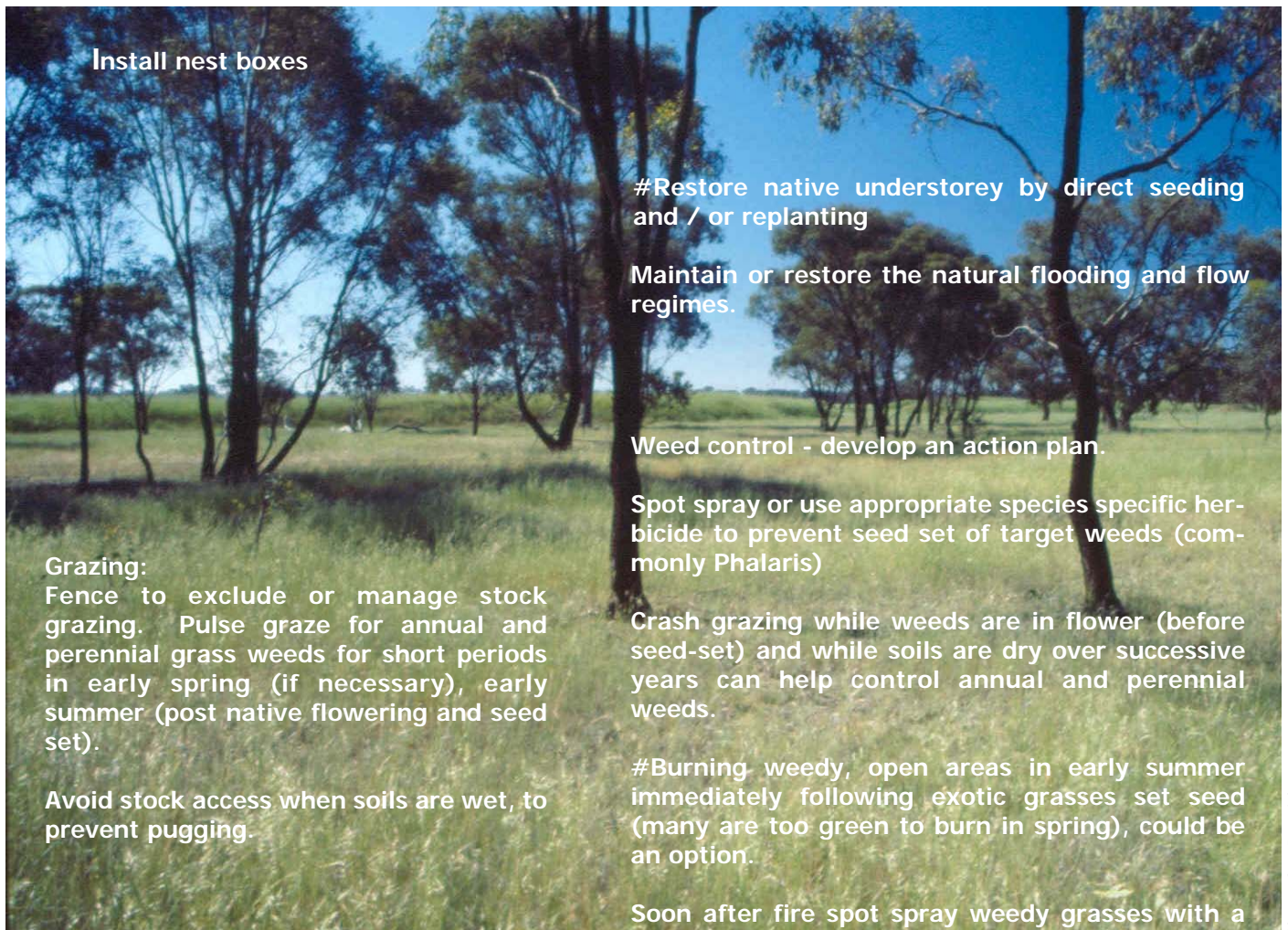


Figure 11. An example of Riverine Chenopod Woodland with good ground layer, but the shrub layer is absent as are large old trees. The photograph was taken in early Spring.

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



Figure 12. An example of degraded Riverine Chenopod Woodland on a roadside, with introduced grasses, and a lack of chenopods. The photograph was taken in late Summer.

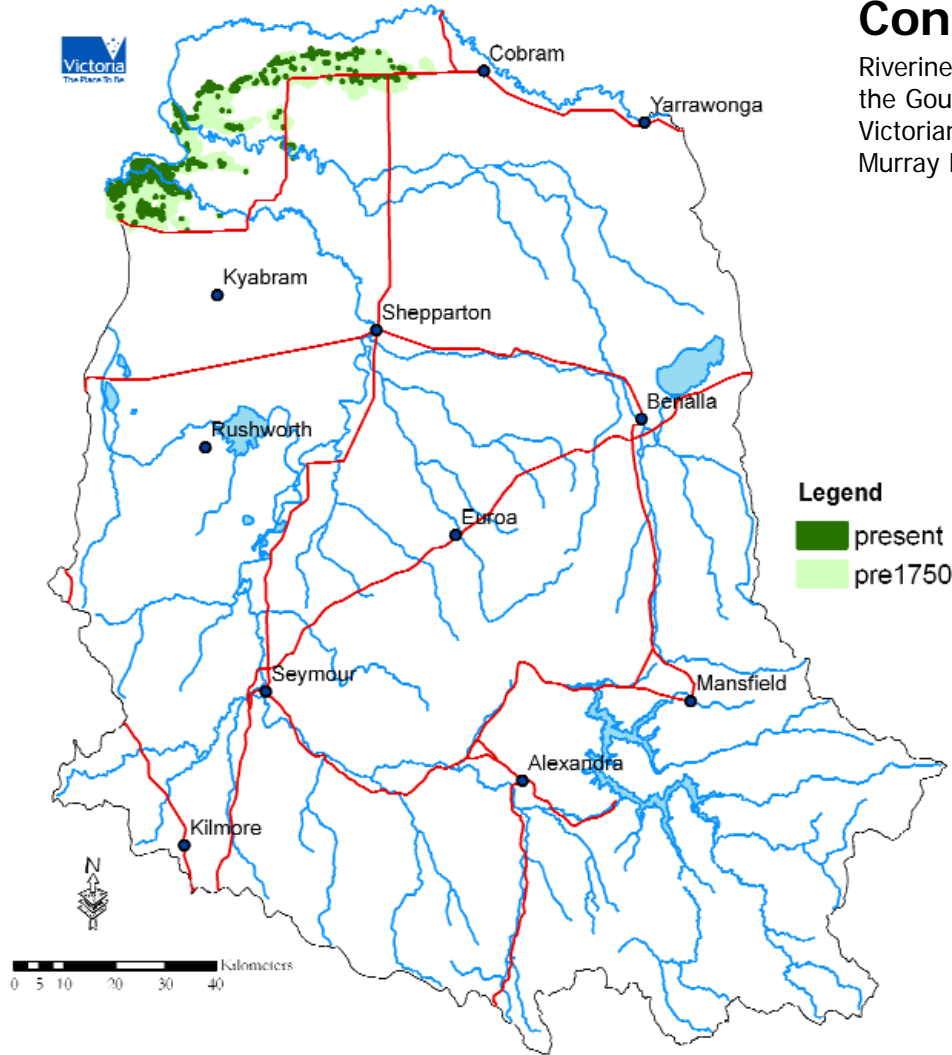


Conservation Status

Riverine Chenopod Woodland is **threatened** in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Victorian Riverina bioregion : **Depleted**

Murray Fans bioregion: **Endangered**



Legend

- present
- pre1750

Figure 13. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Riverine Chenopod Woodland including 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.

References:

- Barlow, T. (1998) *Grassy Guidelines How to manage native grasslands and grassy woodlands on your property*, Trust for Nature, Melbourne.
- Berwick, S. (unpublished) *Pre-1750 EVC mapping*, Goulburn Broken CMA, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Benalla
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (2004) *EVC Bioregional Conservation Status Table*, a support document to: Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action Support Data*, NRE.
- Platt, S.J. (2002) *How to Plan Wildlife Landscapes: a guide for community organisations*, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne.
- Prober, S. and Thiele, K. (2004) *Restoring Grassy White Box Woodlands*, Charles Sturt University, Albury.
- Viridans Pty Ltd. (2004) *Victorian Fauna Display*, Viridans Pty Ltd., Melbourne.

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,

action 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

© The State of Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, May 2005.

ISBN 1-920742-11-5

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.