

Riverine Grassy Woodland / Sedgey Riverine Forest

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

71% of Riverine Grassy Woodland / Sedgey Riverine Forest have been cleared.



Photo: Keith Ward

Figure 1. A healthy example of Riverine Sedgey Forest in Barmah State Park, during flood.

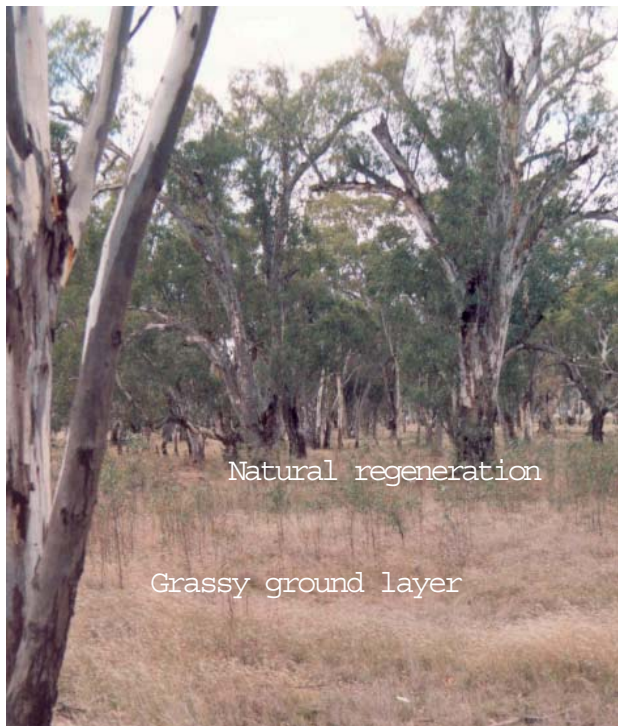


Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 2. An example of Riverine Grassy Woodland. Note the presence of large old trees. The photograph was taken in June, and is near Wyuna.



Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 3. An example of Riverine Grassy Woodland / Riverine Sedgey Forest. The photograph was taken in June.

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Description

Riverine Grassy Woodlands and Riverine Sedgey Forests occur on the riverine floodplain at elevations of 100-200m and receive an annual rainfall of 400-700mm. Riverine Grassy Woodland occurs on slightly elevated positions on the floodplain, on deposited silts and sands, and is less frequently flooded, or for a shorter duration than the adjacent Riverine Sedgey Forest.

The overstorey of both is dominated by River Red Gum, (occasionally with Black Box on the margins of Riverine Grassy Woodland).

Riverine Grassy Woodland has a grassy understorey including Common Wallaby-grass, Brown-back Wallaby-grass and Plains Spear-grass. In Riverine Sedgey Forest the ground layer consists of more sedges and wetter grasses such as: Rush Sedge, Common Swamp Wallaby-grass, Brown-back Wallaby Grass and Common Spike-sedge. Herbs include Bluebells and Slender Dock, and in wetter area, Water-ribbons, Yellow Twin-heads, and Burr-daisies.

Species To Look Out For

Flora: Small Scurf-pea (Ee) and Woolly Buttons (adjacent to Box ridges).

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 7-10. River Red Gum, Common Swamp Wallaby-grass, Common Spike-sedge and Tufted Burr-daisy

Photos: Mary Titcumb

Why Riverine Grassy Woodlands / Sedgey Riverine Forests are Threatened

By its nature, riparian land is critical to the lifecycles of many native animals and plants, it provides wildlife corridors as well as being a refuge for animals in times of drought and fire. It is fragile, and its productivity also makes it vulnerable to over-use. It performs a vital link between land and water ecosystems.

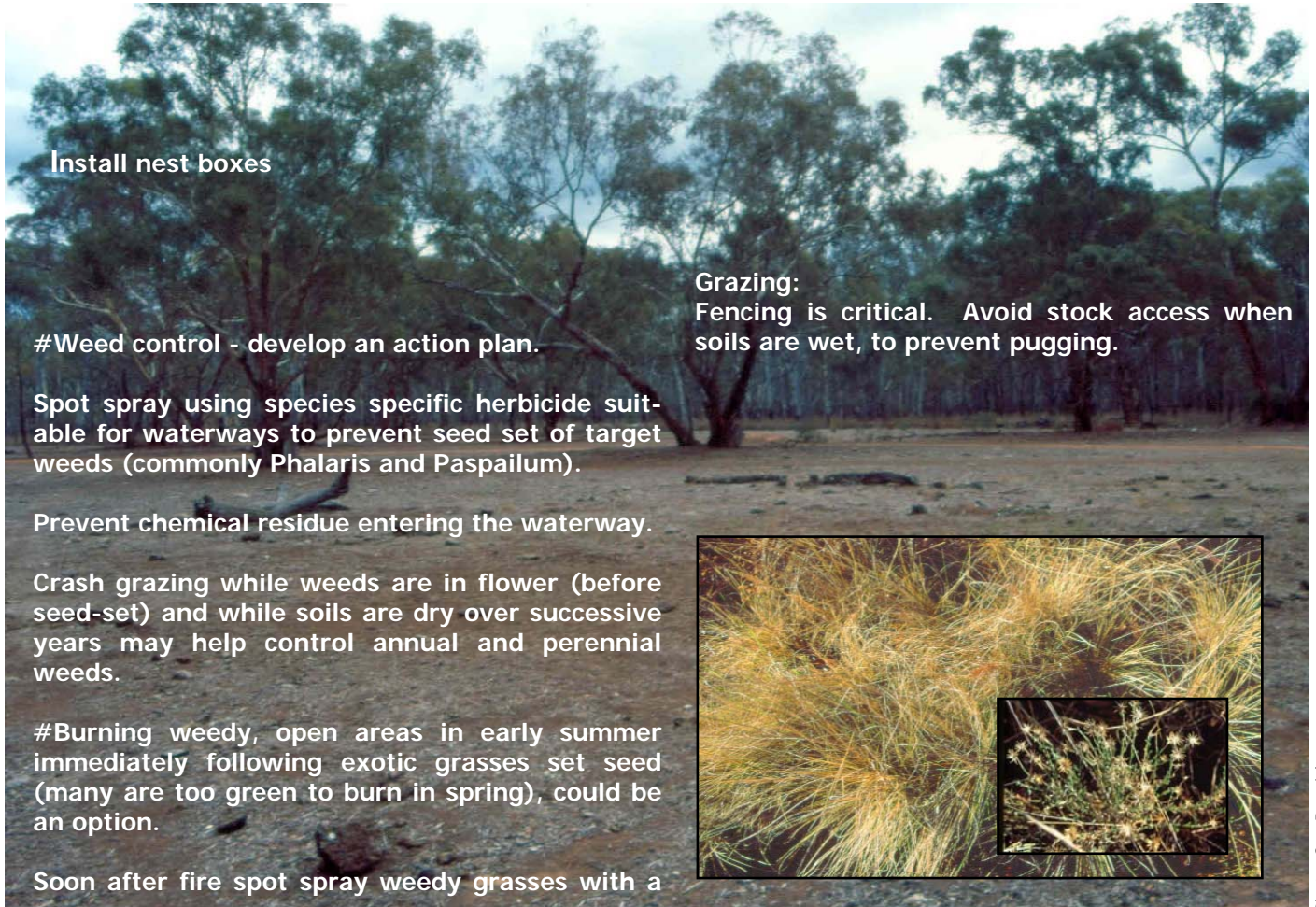
While more than 29% of Riverine Grassy Woodlands / Sedgey Riverine Forests in the Goulburn Broken Catchment still remain, the alteration of flooding regimes have impacted on the quality of these remnants. Many of the plants and animals that rely on this habitat are now also threatened. While only 7% of this remains on private land, private land is often adjacent, and impacts such as nutrient runoff mean that the support of private landholders is essential for the ongoing conservation of this vegetation type.

Current threats include, **alteration to natural water flows** and temperature regimes (causing loss of native species and disrupts the delicate balance of the system, threatening the viability of the remnant), **poor timing of stock grazing and overgrazing** (causing loss of native species through selective grazing and trampling, hinders native plant regeneration, disturbs the soil and increases nutrient levels), lack of natural **regeneration**, **soil disturbance** (eg. ploughing and pugging which favours 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



Install nest boxes

#Weed control - develop an action plan.

Spot spray using species specific herbicide suitable for waterways to prevent seed set of target weeds (commonly Phalaris and Paspalum).

Prevent chemical residue entering the waterway.

Crash grazing while weeds are in flower (before seed-set) and while soils are dry over successive years may help control annual and perennial weeds.

#Burning weedy, open areas in early summer immediately following exotic grasses set seed (many are too green to burn in spring), could be an option.

Soon after fire spot spray weedy grasses with a

Grazing:
Fencing is critical. Avoid stock access when soils are wet, to prevent pugging.

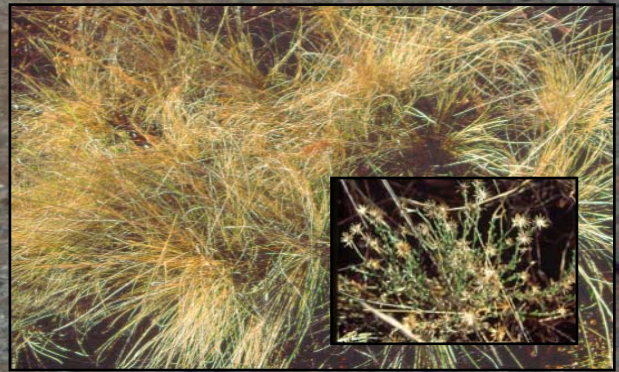


Photo: Sue Berwick

Figure 11. An example of degraded Riverine Grassy Woodland which has been overgrazed. The inset image is adjacent to a grazing exclusion plot, showing Common Tussock-grass and New Holland Daisy.

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



Revegetate around remnants to buffer from pasture and link to other remnants

Encourage natural regeneration by:

- *controlling rabbits,
- *reducing competition with grasses prior to seed fall and,
- *removing stock until seedlings are well established

Avoid driving vehicles through remnant to minimise disturbance

Establish off stream watering

#Restore native understorey by direct seeding and / or replanting

Leave fallen timber for habitat

Maintain or restore the natural flooding and flow regimes.

Photo: Sue Berwick

Figure 12. An example of degraded Riverine Grassy Woodland which has been overgrazed and is showing soil disturbance.

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

Conservation Status

Riverine Grassy Woodland / Sedgey Riverine Forest is **threatened** in the Goulburn Broken Catchment
 Victorian Riverina bioregion : **Depleted**
 Goldfields bioregion : **Depleted**
 Murray Fans bioregion : **Vulnerable**

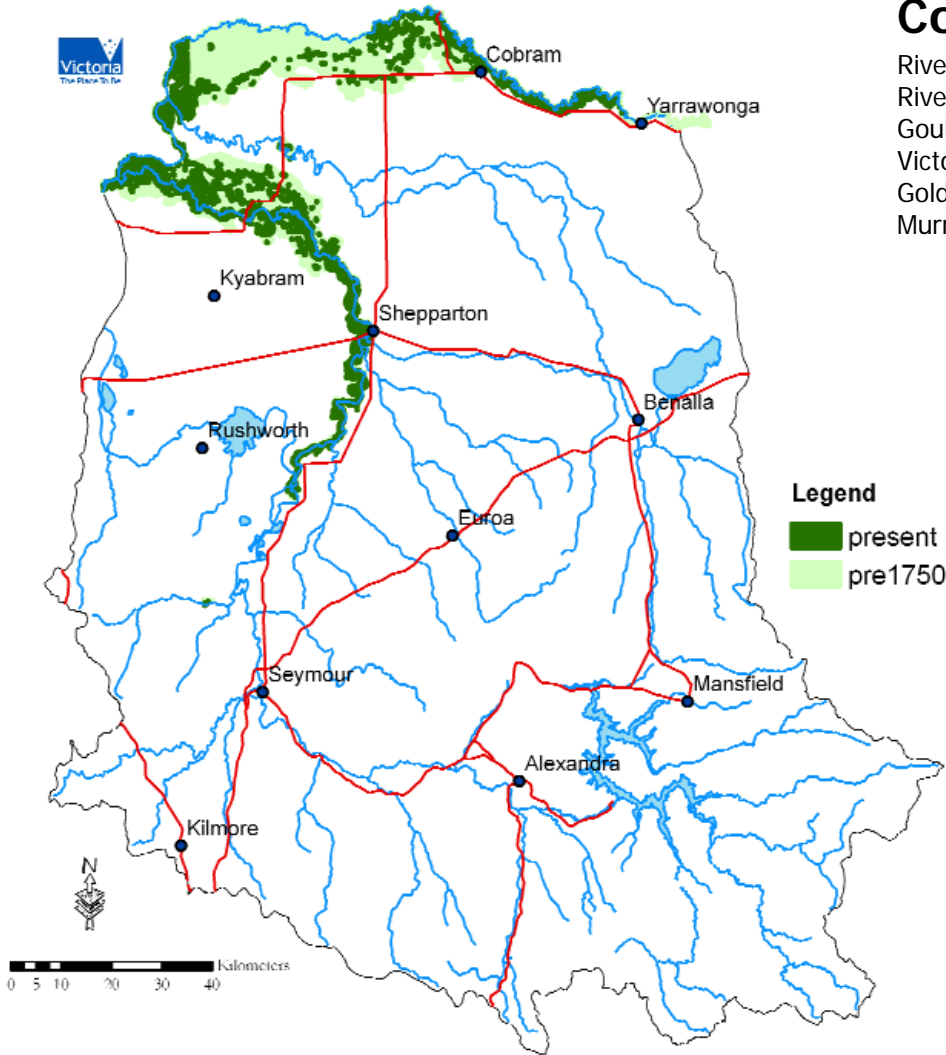


Figure 13. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Riverine Grassy Woodland / Sedgey Riverine Forest and its mosaics and complexes, in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The boundaries of the vegetation have been exaggerated to allow for the small scale of the map. The map was produced 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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