

# Sand Ridge Woodland

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

93% of Sand Ridge Woodlands have been cleared. 55% of what remains is on private land.



Image: Vincent Drane

Figure 1. A simplified depiction of a cross-section of the landscape, showing the relationship between Plains Woodland (in some cases Plains Grassy Woodland), Shallow Sand Woodland and Sand Ridge Woodland.

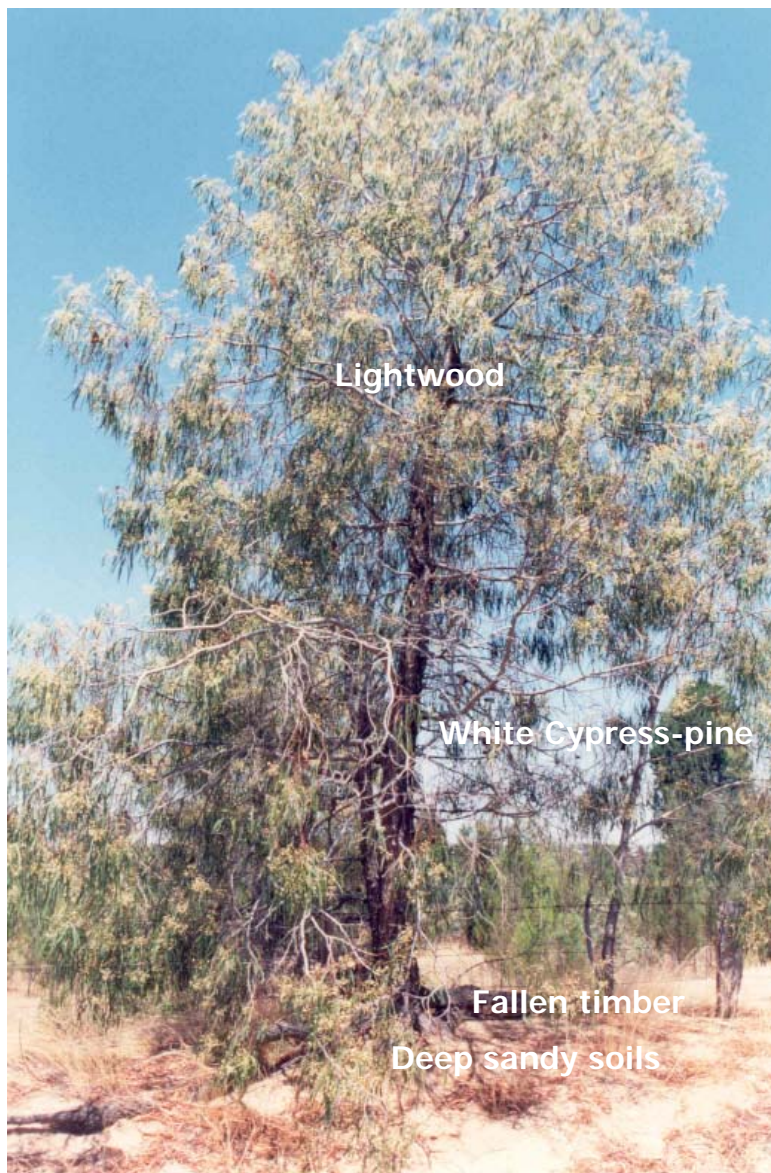


Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 2. An example of Sand Ridge Woodland near Dookie in moderate condition. [The shrub layer is missing and the ground layer is depleted.]



Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 3. An example of Sand Ridge Woodland near Dookie with some of the structural elements remaining.

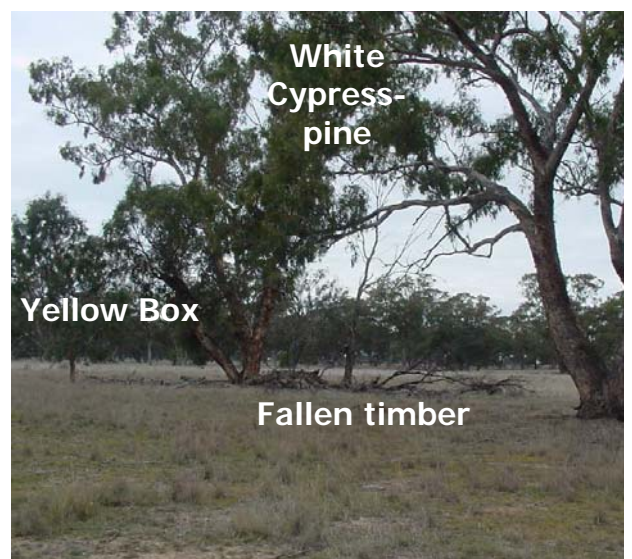


Photo: Debbie Colbourne

Figure 4. An example of Sand Ridge Woodland without the shrub layer, and dominated by remnant Yellow Box. The photograph was taken in late August.

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## Description

Sand Ridge Woodlands occur on natural sand ridges.

These sand ridges are typically dominated by White Cypress-pine, sometimes with Yellow Box and Drooping Sheoak. Silver Banksias once occurred on these ridges.

The shrub layer contains Lightwood (in north-west of Catchment), Common Fringe-myrtle, Grey Mulga, Golden Wattle, Mallee Wattle, Gold-dust Wattle and Cassinia.

The ground layer contains a mixture of Wire-grass, Hairy Panic, Umbrella Grass, Summer Grass, Common Wheat-grass, 9-awned Grass, Blue-bush, Bluebells and Smooth Minuria.

## Species To Look Out For

**Flora:** Small Scurf-pea (Ee), Mallee Wattle, Silky Umbrella Grass (v), Umbrella Grass (v), Leafless Blue-bush (k), Banksia and White Cypress-pine.

**Fauna:** Grey-crowned Babbler (e), Red-capped Robin and Tree Goanna (v).



Figure 8-11. White Cypress-pine, Silver Banksia, Common Fringe-myrtle, Common Wheat-grass.

Photos: 9: McCann, and 8, 10, 11: Mary Titcumb



Figure 5. Grey-crowned Babbler  
Photo: Chris Tzaros



Figure 6. Red-capped Robin  
Photo: DSE/McCann



Figure 7. Tree Goanna  
Photo: Mary Titcumb

## Why Sand Ridge Woodlands are Threatened

More than 93% of Sand Ridge Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken Catchment have disappeared since European settlement. Over 55% 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 Sand Ridge Woodlands.

Current threats include, **pest animals** (particularly rabbits which commonly have many warrens in these sandy rises, and graze heavily on White Cypress-pine and buloke regeneration), **poor timing of stock grazing and overgrazing** (causes loss of native species, hinders native plant regeneration, disturbs the soil and increases nutrient levels), **weed invasion, 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, and improve soil health through fixing nitrogen), lack of **natural regeneration, soil disturbance** (eg. ploughing and pugging, favouring weed species) and loss of **tree and ground habitat** (through timber harvesting, tidying-up of fallen timber and firewood collection).

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## Management Tips

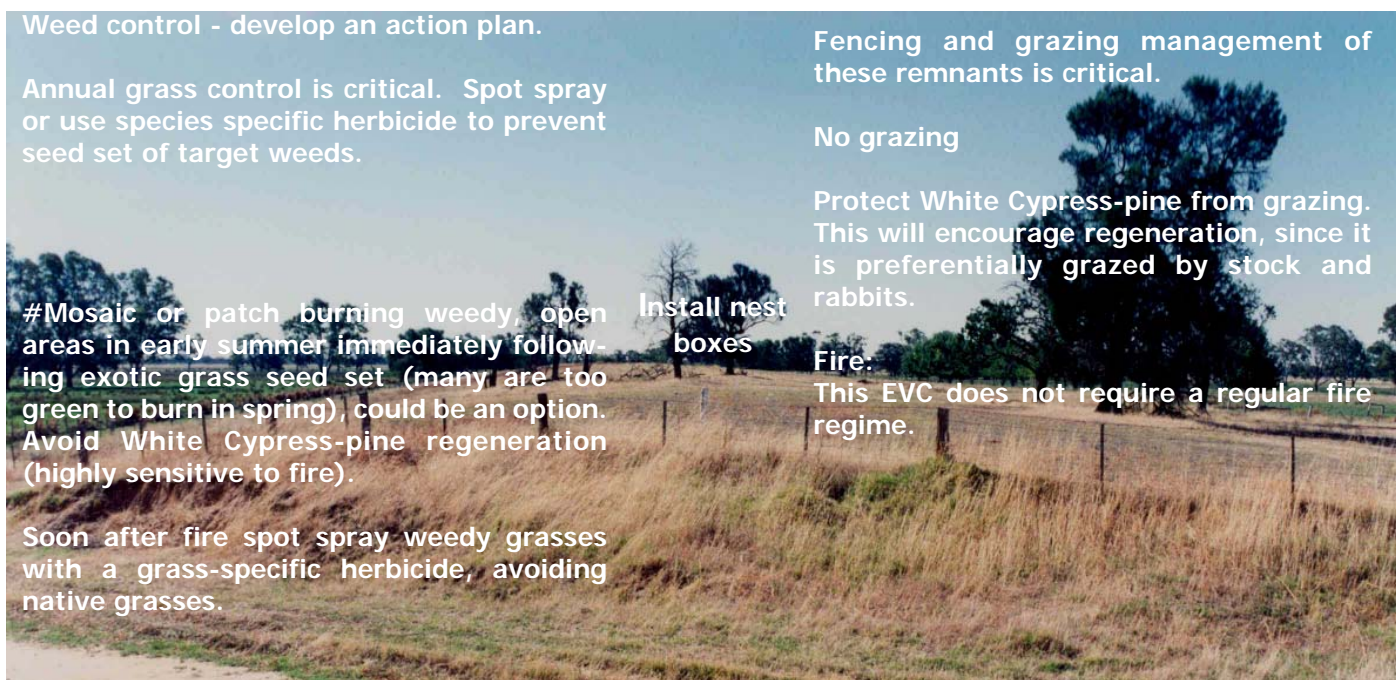


Photo: Mary Titcumb

Weed control - develop an action plan.

Annual grass control is critical. Spot spray or use species specific herbicide to prevent seed set of target weeds.

# Mosaic or patch burning weedy, open areas in early summer immediately following exotic grass seed set (many are too green to burn in spring), could be an option. Avoid White Cypress-pine regeneration (highly sensitive to fire).

Soon after fire spot spray weedy grasses with a grass-specific herbicide, avoiding native grasses.

Fencing and grazing management of these remnants is critical.

No grazing

Protect White Cypress-pine from grazing. This will encourage regeneration, since it is preferentially grazed by stock and rabbits.

Fire. This EVC does not require a regular fire regime.

Install nest boxes

Figure 12. An example of a degraded Sand Ridge Woodland in late Summer. The naturally high sand ridge is shown, grading into the Plains on either side. Only scattered remnant White Cypress-pines are in evidence, and much of the natural vegetation has been lost.

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

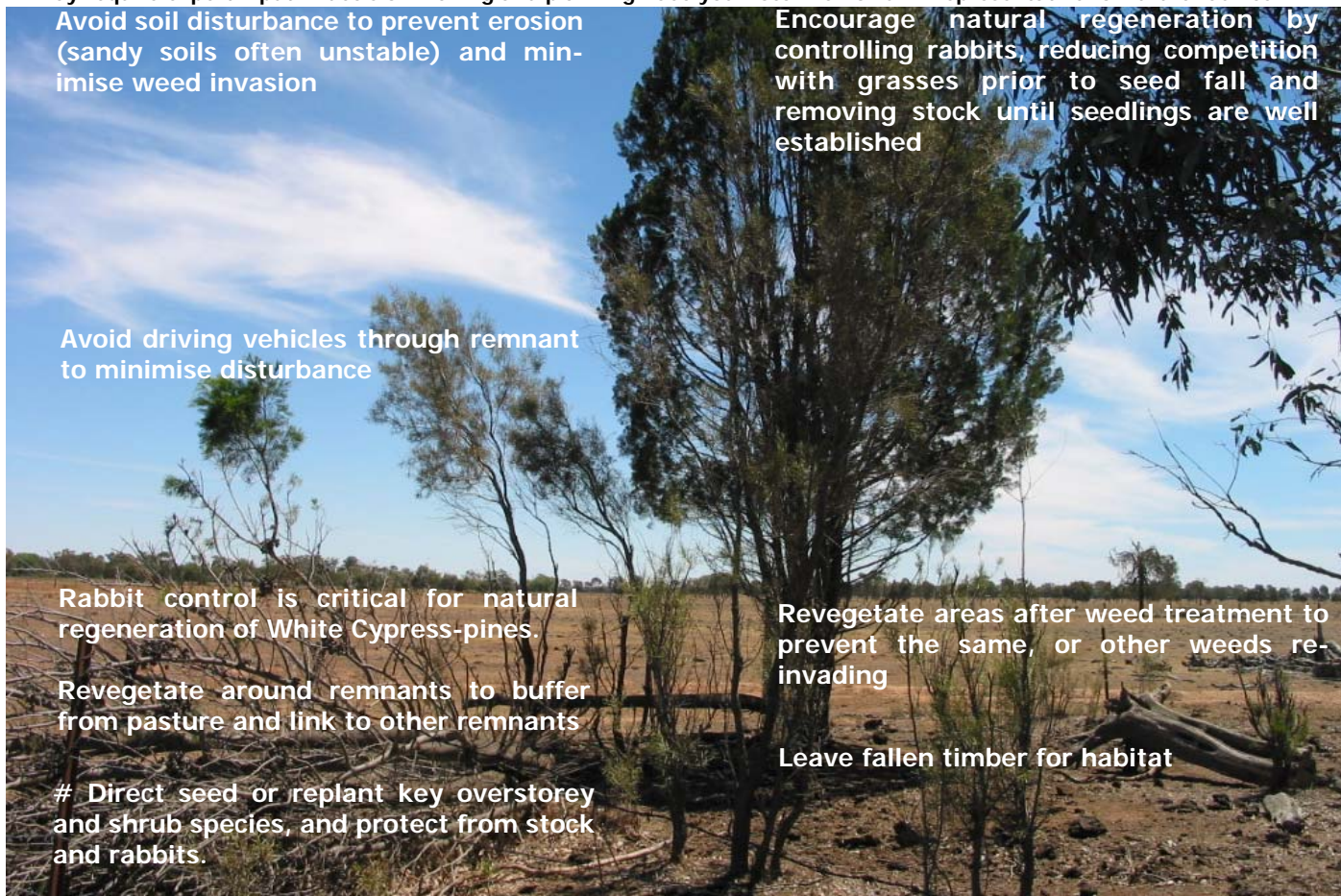


Photo: Debbie Colbourne

Avoid soil disturbance to prevent erosion (sandy soils often unstable) and minimise weed invasion

Avoid driving vehicles through remnant to minimise disturbance

Rabbit control is critical for natural regeneration of White Cypress-pines.

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

# Direct seed or replant key overstorey and shrub species, and protect from stock and rabbits.

Encourage natural regeneration by controlling rabbits, reducing competition with grasses prior to seed fall and removing stock until seedlings are well established

Revegetate areas after weed treatment to prevent the same, or other weeds re-invading

Leave fallen timber for habitat

Figure 13. An example of a degraded Sand Ridge Woodland near Timmering.

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



# Conservation Status

Sand Ridge Woodland is **Endangered** in the  
 Goulburn Broken Catchment  
 Victorian Riverina bioregion : **Endangered**  
 Murray Fans bioregion: **Endangered**  
 Goldfields bioregion : **Endangered**

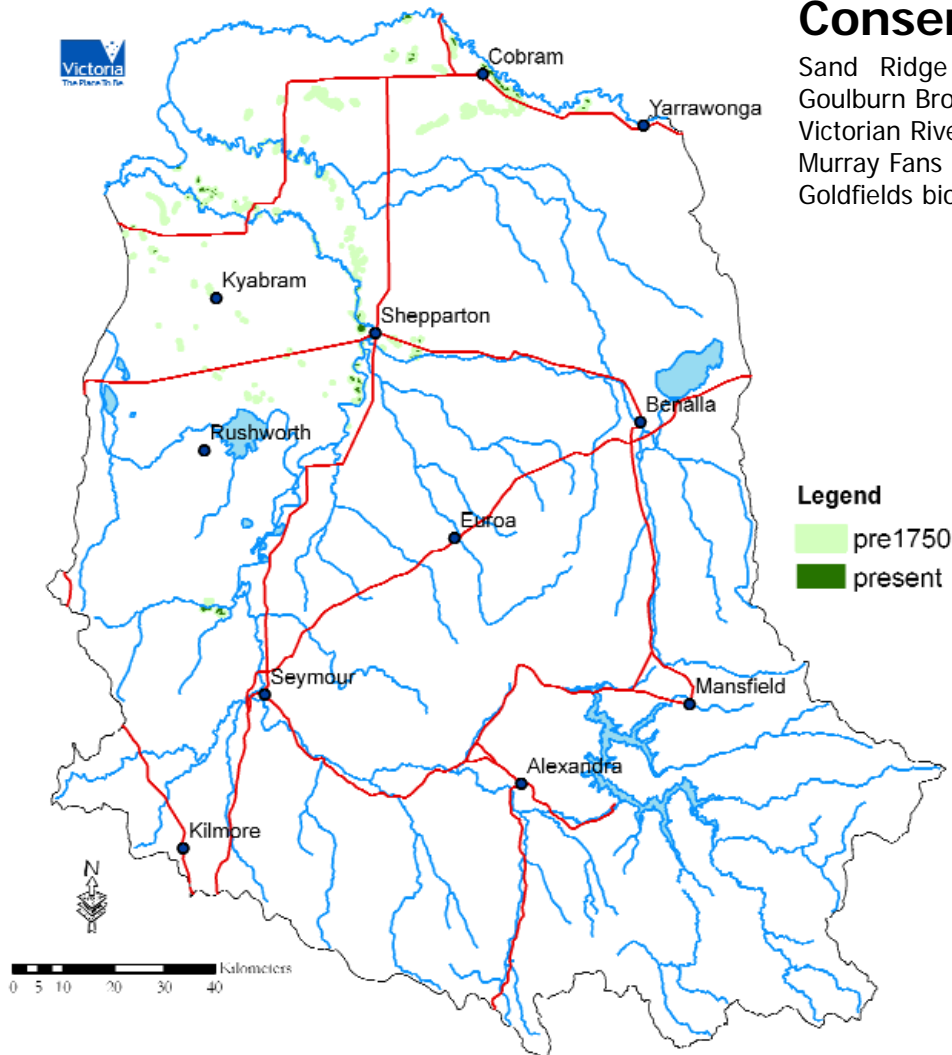


Figure 14. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Sand Ridge Woodland and its mosaics and complexes in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The boundaries of the vegetation have been exaggerated to allow for the small scale of the map. The map was produced from Base Data from DSE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