Department of Sustainability and Environment

Shallow Sands Woodland

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

99% of Shallow Sand Woodlands have been cleared. 94% of what remains is on private land.

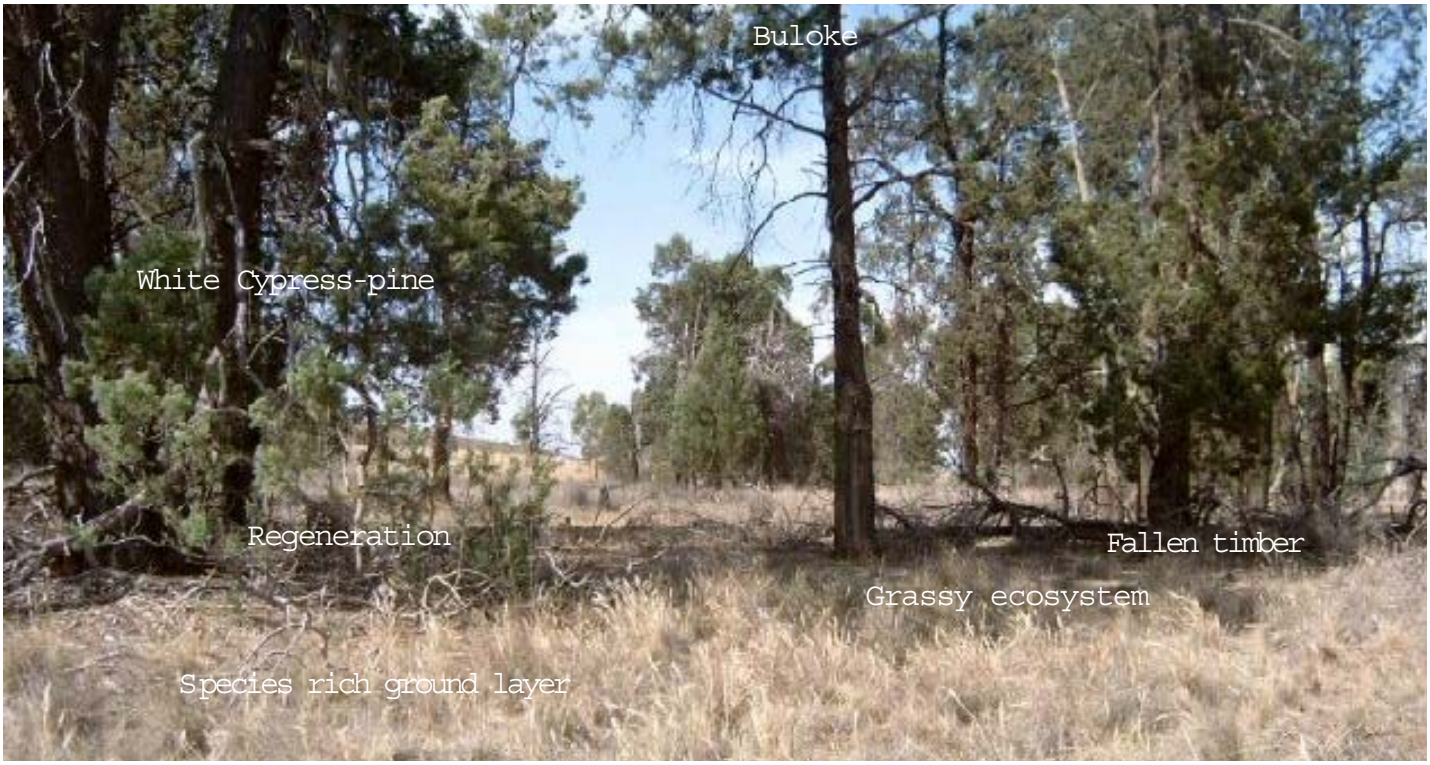

Photo: Debbie Colbounre

Figure 1. An example of Shallow Sand Woodland near Dookie in good condition.

Photo: Debbie Colbounre

Figure 2. An example of Shallow Sand Woodland near Dookie in good condition.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Victoria The Place To Be

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Description

Shallow Sand Woodlands occur on the plains with sandy loam soils. They are often associated with Plains Grassy Woodlands and surrounds or are adjacent to Sand Ridge Woodlands. They also occur on broader areas of plains covered by shallow sands overlaying drainage-impeding clays. They occur at elevations of 100-125m and an annual rainfall of 400-550mm.

This woodland, (or open forest) is a grassy ecosystem with an overstorey of Yellow Box, White Cypress-pine and Buloke, sometimes with Grey Box and River Red Gum.

The sparse shrub layer consists of Golden Wattle, Mallee Wattle, Varnish Wattle, Curved Rice-flower, Weeping Pittosporum, Senna and Ruby Saltbush.

The species rich ground layer contains Rough Spear-grass, Bristly Wallaby-grass, Yellowish Bluebell and Many-flowered Mat-rush. Although no longer found in this vegetation type, historical records suggest that Silver Banksia, Yarran Wattle, Broom Ballart and Pale-fruit Ballart occurred in this community.

Figures 3-6. White Cypress Pine, Buloke, Weeping Pittosporum, Many-flowered Mat-rush.

Photos: Carla Miles (3, 4), Sue Berwick (5) Mary Titcumb (6)

Species To Look Out For

Flora: Buloke, Buloke Mistletoe (v), White Cypress-pine, Sweet Quandong, Desert Cassia, Silver Banksia and Spurred Spear-grass.
Fauna: Grey-crowned Babbler (e), Apostlebird and Tree Goanna (v).

Figure 7. Grey-crowned Babbler
Photo: Graeme Chapman

Figure 8. Apostlebird
Photo: DSE/McCann

Figure 9. Tree Goanna
Photo: Mary Titcumb

Why Shallow Sands Woodlands are Threatened

More than 99% of Shallow Sands Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken Catchment have disappeared since European settlement. Over 94% 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 Shallow Sands 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, firewood collection, irrigation agriculture and stubble burning and ploughing).

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Management Tips

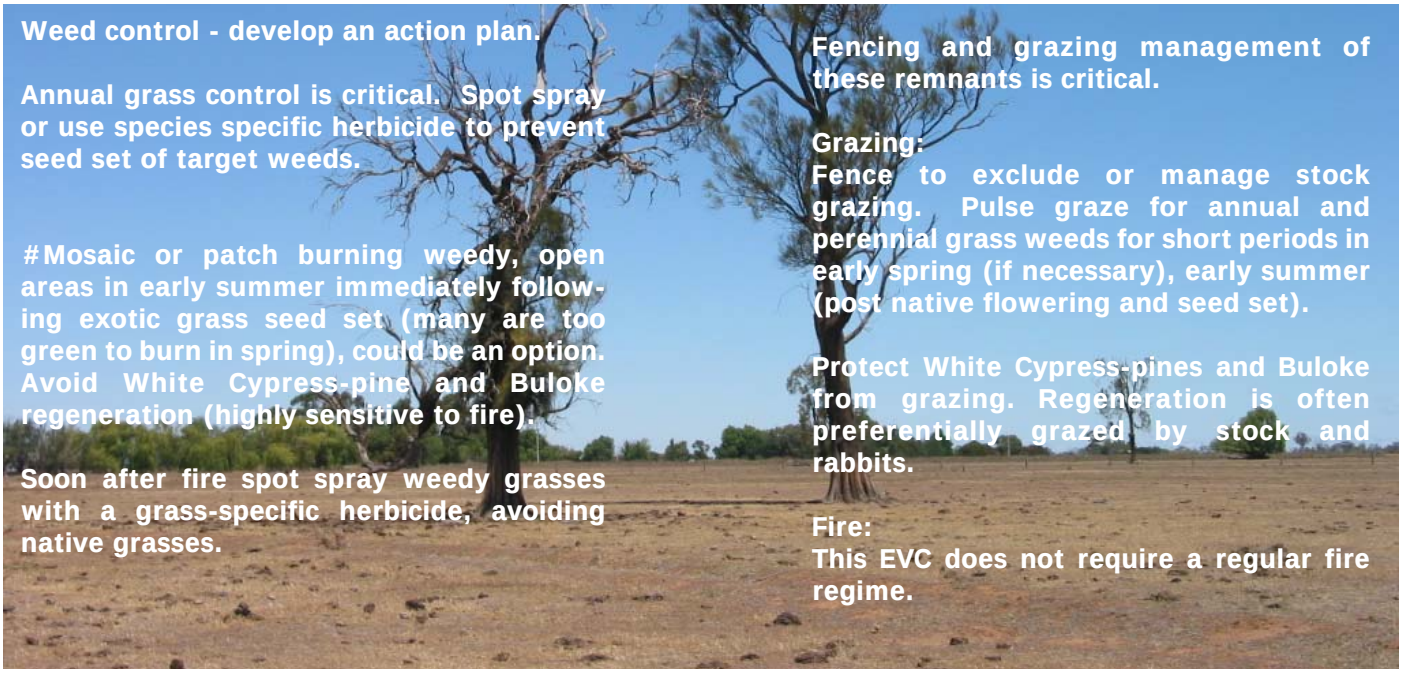

Photo: Debbie Colbourne

Figure 10. An example of a degraded Shallow Sands Woodland near Timmering.

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

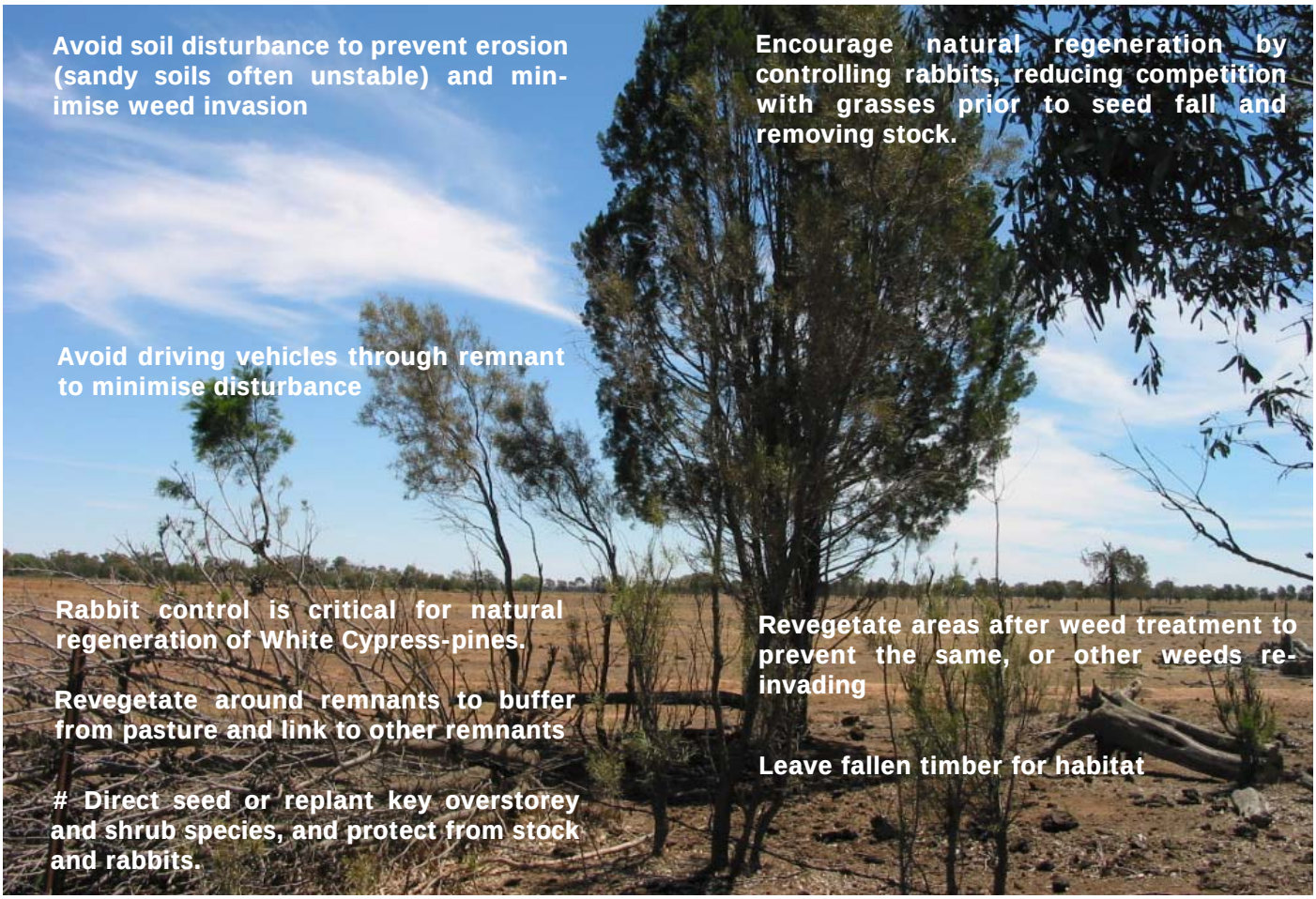

Photo: Debbie Colbourne

Figure 11. An example of a degraded Shallow Sands Woodland near Timmering.

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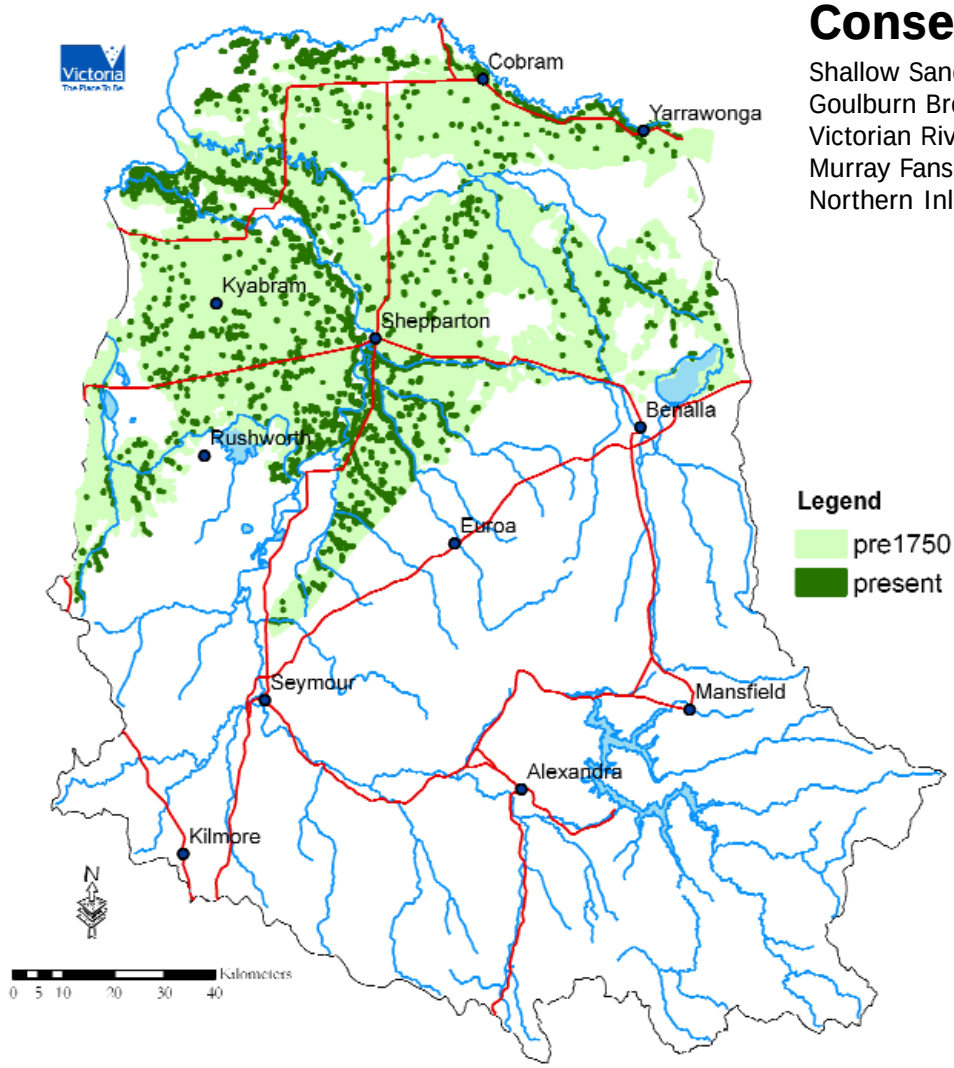

Conservation Status

Shallow Sands Woodland is threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Victorian Riverina bioregion :	Endangered
Murray Fans bioregion :	Vulnerable
Northern Inland Slopes bioregion :	Vulnerable

Figure 12. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Shallow Sands Woodland and is 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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