

# 1

## Why revegetate?

### Summary box

- This book focuses on revegetation of previously cleared woodland in south-eastern Australia. We focus on the south-eastern grazing region where domestic livestock grazing and/or cropping have been prominent forms of land use.
- These agricultural landscapes have suffered widespread land degradation and significant losses of biodiversity. Revegetation is a key step towards solving these problems.
- It is important to identify the main reasons for creating a planting before embarking on its design and establishment. This is because the underlying objectives will significantly influence its location, size, shape, composition and other aspects.

In this introductory chapter we discuss the key reasons why revegetation is important in Australian agricultural landscapes.

### Australia's land use history

About 230 years ago, south-eastern Australia was covered in forests and woodlands that supported many species of animals and plants found nowhere else on Earth. Since European settlement, there have been enormous changes in this vast region. The development of agricultural land and exploitation of resources such as timber has resulted in extensive clearing of the original woodlands and forests (Fig. 1.1).