

Temperate eucalypt woodlands

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1. Minimise clearing of remnant woodlands and paddock trees.
2. Secure conservation of the historic travelling stock route network.
3. Protect the Great Western Woodlands.
4. Facilitate engagement with Aboriginal people in woodland management.
5. Work towards the vision of '10:20:40:30' woodland landscapes.
6. Intensify the biodiversity values of woodlands set aside for conservation.
7. Manage fire.
8. Plan for a changing climate.
9. Protect, manage and restore a representative set of diverse woodlands.
10. Maintain, support and coordinate the on-ground momentum.

Introduction

Major Mitchell's 'Australia Felix' or 'Fortunate Land', Hans Heysen's 'majestic landscapes of red gums and merinos', Dorothea McKellar's 'land of sweeping plains'. These typify Australia's temperate eucalypt woodlands: the open park-like country with scattered trees over productive grasslands, abundant wildflowers and low shrubs that offered the answer to early European Australia's search for grazing and cropping lands. But this very productivity has resulted in temperate eucalypt woodlands becoming some of the most threatened ecological communities in Australia. Few pristine woodlands remain. Clearing, fertilisation, grazing, surface and groundwater diversion, and cultivation have led to dramatic losses of woodland biodiversity and to the collapse of ecological and hydrological processes. This, in turn, has led to the decline of remnant trees, salinisation, erosion and acidification of productive land, and widespread weed invasion (Lindenmayer *et al.* 2010).

The history of the woodland country is disheartening from a biodiversity perspective, but valuable progress has been made towards a vision for woodland conservation and restoration in the past few decades: to put the pieces back together to create healthy, vibrant and viable landscapes and rural communities. Storehouses of woodland biodiversity still remain in some of the most unlikely places, such as old country cemeteries, the iconic travelling stock routes of the graziers and drovers, and water reserves capturing water from granite outcrops in the Western Australian wheatbelt. These offer key building blocks for restoring native vegetation towards a more sustainable level of 30% cover in woodland landscapes (Smith *et al.* 2013). In addition, efforts to increase the proportion of