

## 8.1 NATIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### What is native vegetation management ?

Native vegetation management is the management of native trees, shrubs and grasses to increase the viability of rural communities, maintain biodiversity and to prevent land and water degradation. (DLWC 1998)

For the purpose of this plan, “remnant vegetation” does not necessarily refer to ‘untouched’ vegetation, as much of the catchment has been ringbarked, cleared, grazed or burnt since settlement. Much of the vegetation that remains today represents regrowth from this era, with many of the stands showing evidence of these past activities. It is important that these areas are preserved, as they may represent important samples of Yass area vegetation communities.

### Why is native vegetation important ?

Protecting and managing areas of native remnant vegetation can have multiple benefits in promoting sustainable catchment health. These include:

- *providing windbreaks, shade and shelter for stock*
- *enhancing economic value (agroforestry, firewood, property value)*
- *providing a source of seed for regeneration*
- *reducing groundwater levels and recharge*
- *filtering nutrients and pollution in the stream bank zone*
- *controlling erosion*
- *increasing and maintaining biodiversity*
- *providing wildlife habitat and corridors.*

Shade and shelter provided by native vegetation can increase production. During a five year study at Armidale, sheep on sheltered plots produced 35% more wool and 6kg more liveweight than those without shelter. Shelter also reduced lambing losses by up to 50% (Dengate).

Native vegetation also provides an important aesthetic function in attracting tourism to farming areas, and plays an important role in local and regional cultural history.

### What causes native vegetation decline ?

Native vegetation decline has occurred through *direct loss* of vegetation, *fragmentation* of vegetation and *degradation* of those areas (DLWC 1998).

Clearing, continuous grazing and dieback are the primary causes of native vegetation decline in the Yass area. Clearing in the catchment dates back to 1898 with much of the remaining vegetation consisting of small remnants or individual paddock trees. These small, segmented remnants are generally not protected from grazing pressure and as a result, are more susceptible to the pressures influencing dieback and tree decline. This can affect reproduction, species diversity and exposure of remnants to weather and the impacts from adjoining landuse (fertiliser/herbicide drift, weeds and stock) known as the ‘edge effect’. Many isolated paddock trees in the catchment are also old and in their later stages of life, reducing their ability to recover from dieback.

## How is it affecting the Burrinjuck area ?

The need for revegetation in the Burrinjuck Sub-catchment has been recognised by individuals and groups of landholders. Over recent years significant plantings of treelots, windbreaks, revegetation of gullies and fencing of remnants, have been undertaken. Several tree planting projects such as the Greening Australia Superb Parrot Revegetation and Natural Heritage Trust Webs of Green projects have provided assistance.

The priority now for groups in the area is to take a more strategic approach to revegetation through creating an extensive network to which all future plantings and protection activities can be linked.

### Priority actions

The overall objectives of the suggested action plans are to:

1. protect existing remnants
2. revegetate degraded areas
3. establish vegetation corridor links, and,
4. improve biodiversity, habitat and aesthetics.

### Local Actions to Date

#### 2000/2001

- Dieback Revegetation Project
- Burrinjuck Webs of Green Project
- Burrinjuck Revegetation for Biodiversity Project

#### 1999/2000

- Burrinjuck Webs of Green Vegetation Enhancement and Protection Project
- Burrinjuck Revegetation for Biodiversity Project
- Yass Area Dieback Revegetation Project
- Jerrawa Creek Catchment Green Corridors
- Yass Shire Vegetation Management Plan

- Tyrone tree Corridor
- Jerrawa Creek Wildlife Corridor

#### 1998/1999

- Jerrawa Creek Wildlife Corridor
- Jerrawa Creek Catchment Green Corridors
- Tyrone Creek Corridor
- Burrinjuck Remnant Bush Preservation and Revegetation
- Yass Shire Vegetation Management Plan
- Burrinjuck Webs of Green
- Murrumbateman Missing Links
- Yass Area Dieback Revegetation

#### 1997/1998

- Jerrawa Creek Catchment Green Corridors
- Burrinjuck Remnant Bush Preservation and Revegetation
- Yass Shire Vegetation Management Plan
- Gundaroo Common native vegetation survey
- Re-greening the Greenways
- Wee Jasper Nature Conservation Group.

#### 1996/1997

- Burrinjuck remnant bush preservation and revegetation
- Yass Shire Vegetation Management Plan

#### See also in the Appendix:

**Section 6.4** Vegetation

**Section 7.2** Native vegetation

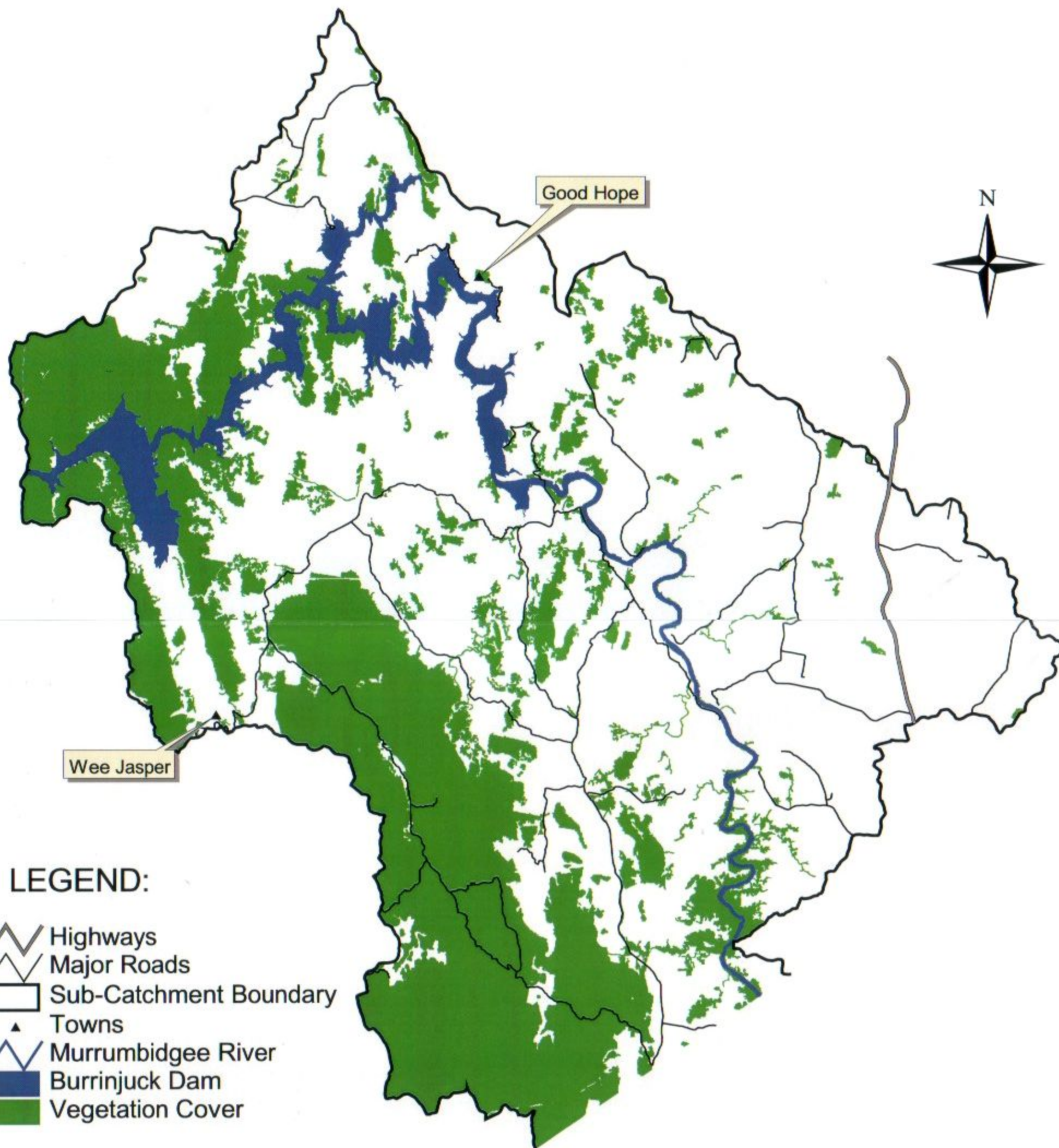
**Table 3:** Threatened Flora in the Yass Area

**Table 4:** Noxious Weeds in the Yass Area

**Table 5:** Threatened Fauna in the Yass Area

# BURRINJUCK SUB-CATCHMENT

## Map 17: Vegetation Cover



### LEGEND:

-  Highways
-  Major Roads
-  Sub-Catchment Boundary
-  Towns
-  Murrumbidgee River
-  Burrinjuck Dam
-  Vegetation Cover

SCALE 1:200000

10 0 10 Kilometres

#### DISCLAIMER

The Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups and/or contributors accepts no responsibility for the result of action taken or decisions made on the basis of the information contained herein or for errors, omissions or inaccuracies presented here. Whilst all care is taken to ensure a high degree of accuracy, users are invited to notify of any map discrepancies.

SOURCE: RACD, 1999



## 1. NATIVE VEGETATION ACTION PLAN

WHAT WILL WE DO ?	WHY ARE WE DOING IT ?
Retain and enhance remnant vegetation and increase area of native vegetation.	To maintain and improve ecological health to ensure sustainable production and conservation.

### HOW DOES IT CONTRIBUTE TO MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENT BLUEPRINT TARGETS ?

Salinity ✓	Soil Health ✓	Biodiversity ✓	Community Building ✓
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#### HOW WILL WE DO IT ?

(codes in brackets indicate Matching Blueprint Actions)

##### Identify the problem

- NV1. Use assessment kits to assess the quality of native vegetation.
- NV2. Seek expert advice to establish local reasons for decline (eg dieback).

##### Implement management practices

- NV3. Create an extensive network of vegetation to link revegetation and remnant protection activities (eg Webs of Green). (BMA1, PrMA3)
- NV4. Protect and manage remnant native vegetation on private land. (PrMA3, PrMA4)
- NV5. Promote revegetation of native ecological communities listed as threatened or endangered, through fencing, reducing competition etc. (BMA6, BMA7)
- NV6. Develop and encourage the use of local vegetation communities seedstock where possible. (PrMA4)

##### On-ground works

- NV7. Enhance the health of remnants by encouraging natural regeneration and re-introducing a large range of local native understorey plants. (PrMA3, PrMA4)
- NV8. Manage weeds and feral animals.
- NV9. Retain dead standing and fallen timber for habitat. (BMA6)
- NV10. Fence areas of important native vegetation & manage grazing appropriately.
- NV11. Support more research on germination of native vegetation especially native grasses.

##### Promote and educate

- NV12. Raise awareness of the importance of remnant vegetation. (BMA1, CBMA11)
- NV13. Encourage local government to identify and protect high quality vegetation, particularly where it will be affected by development. (BMA1, BMA7)
- NV14. Encourage financial rebates or incentive schemes for revegetation works (BMA7)
- NV15. Develop identification information sheets for native perennial pasture management - grazing techniques, fencing, fires, allowing for seed set. (SMA8, PrMA1)
- NV16. Promote native farm forestry through trial farm forestry sites.

##### Monitor

- NV17. Monitor revegetation and remnant management activities to improve techniques, species selection and strategies. (BMA5)

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

### NATIVE VEGETATION

#### What is native vegetation management?

Native vegetation is made up of trees, shrubs, grasses and all other plants native to Australia. Native vegetation management includes working with the community to increase and improve native vegetation cover and to better manage existing vegetation.

#### Why do we need to manage it ?

Native vegetation provides ecological, social and economic benefits. It contributes to biodiversity, protects from land degradation, maintains water quality, acts as a carbon sink, and provides for recreation, natural heritage, and research.

It provides fodder, products such as timber and honey, and habitat for beneficial pest predators. It also has important social, economic and cultural values for Aboriginal people.

#### What can I do ?

Manage remnant native vegetation to improve its condition. Ensure your revegetation or new plantings are consistent with your whole farm plan. Think about where they will provide the most benefit to your farming system. They might be to provide livestock shade and shelter, protect buildings, prevent groundwater recharge, stabilise stream banks or provide wood production.

#### How do I do it?

##### Retain

- Retain large trees, leaf litter, sticks and logs under remnant vegetation.

##### Protect

- Fence native vegetation areas to protect from stock
- Avoid fragmenting existing areas of vegetation by roads or fences.
- Keep a buffer between native vegetation remnants and other intensive land uses

##### Manage

- Manage grazing to allow regrowth of vegetation (ie don't graze in seed setting/flowering, or germination periods)
- Look after existing patches of remnant vegetation to allow natural regeneration
- Use appropriate native species when planting vegetation, particularly in existing vegetation areas
- Retain tree stumps, fallen trees, dead trees and understorey vegetation for habitat for pest predators
- Control weeds
- Minimise disturbance to soil and vegetation to maintain ground cover, keep weeds out and allow the understorey plants to establish.
- Reduce chemical and fertiliser drift from adjacent farm activities.

#### Who can help ?

Department of Land and Water Conservation, Yass phone (02) 6226 1433  
Greening Australia, ACT phone (02) 6253 3035