

Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Introduction of Shrub Layer

OBJECTIVES

To establish a self-sustaining shrub layer across the entire site through planting and hand seeding.

Due to previous clearing of the site, no remnant shrub layer existed and there has been no natural recruitment in the previously fenced off site.

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

Long term we are aiming for a 10 to 15% canopy cover in the mid storey across the entire 16 hectare site. Instead of going for a traditional planting of row upon row of plants, it was decided that shrubs would be planted in dense patches throughout.

This will promote biodiversity hot spots through the sight and long term birds will disperse seed.

To compliment this hand seeding of some shrub species will be conducted throughout the site which will implant an artificial seed bank, to automatically kick the process off.



Yellow Box Grassy wood land just outside of Wagga Wagga with healthy shrub and ground cover layer



Note the open space and scattered shrub species under stringy bark in Tumut.

KEY STEPS

- Species selection is key to restoration, gone are the days when any old tree or shrub would do, with the use of resources like the new revegetation guides species selection is much easier. www.revegetation.org.au
- Ground preparation, know how much to do, in this case small, condensed areas were ripped to create the island effect which was planned.
- These patches were then densely planted with ground cover and shrub layer, and scattered large trees, knowing that the managed red gum regeneration with fill in the bulk of the large tree canopy.
- Direct seeding by hand was then carried out across the remainder of the site which should result in scattered shrubs which will ultimately germinate at different times allowing for a mixed age shrub layer into the future.