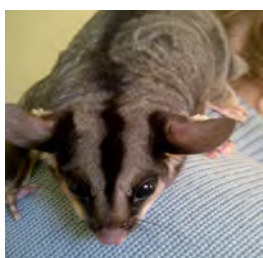# Landscape Connectivity

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Landscape Connectivity is making sure our animals and plants are able to move around in the landscape—animals can physically move as long as they have the infrastructure like trees and other vegetation to provide the physical perches, shelter from predators and food sources.

Plants don't move as individuals as such, but their population and genetics do. Some plants move via their seed dispersal and those seeds need somewhere hospitable to land or for animals to be able to carry their seeds to new suitable areas, and some are dependent on their pollinators to be able to move. These may be birds, animals or insects.

What constitutes a connected landscape depends on what animal or plant we are talking about.

Squirrel gliders can glide form patch to patch but can only glide up to 50m so tall trees that are 50m apart is a connected landscape for them

Small birds like thornbills and wrens can fly, but that requires a lot of energy and protection from big birds and other predators, so connectivity for them might look like this— continuous cover with lots of shrubs
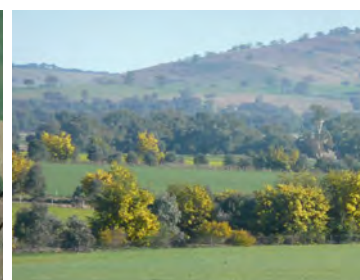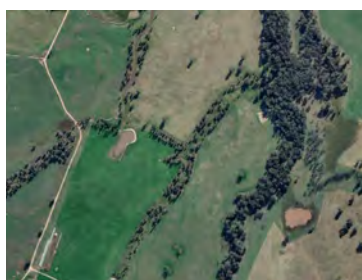
The connectivity story for plants is much more

Connected population of wind-pollinated species like wattle and grasses spread their genetics easily via the wind

Plants like orchids and a lot of forbs are connected via their pollinators— the plants themselves have local populations and seed dispersal, but maintain genetic connectedness via pollinator species. They can be very specific or very common species.

Plant in the Asteracae family, like this Yam Daisy, have seeds that can disperse on the wind so populations can physically spread in the landscape.

How can we improve connectivity?

More Vegetation! - the less gap between patches the more species can use them to move around and species that encourage pollinators

In urban areas, plant a native garden and don't shy away from trees—they can be managed to be safe and contribute so much for our urban wildlife

Look after and improve habitat in the patches - plant shrubs and native grasses & groundcovers, encourage and retain fallen and dead timber, maybe provide alternative hollows if there aren't many

Retain Paddock trees—even the dead ones! Research has shown that these trees can provide critical connectivity for many species
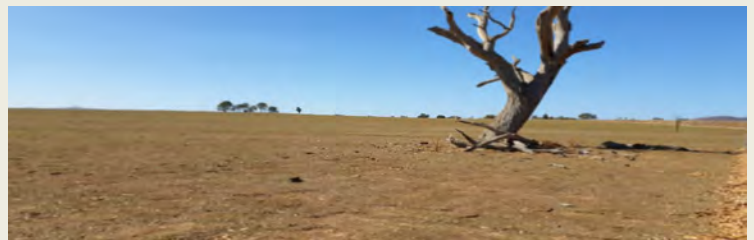
Support our infrastructure managers to implement practices that help overcome the barriers for wildlife around our roads, bridges, buildings etc.

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