Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

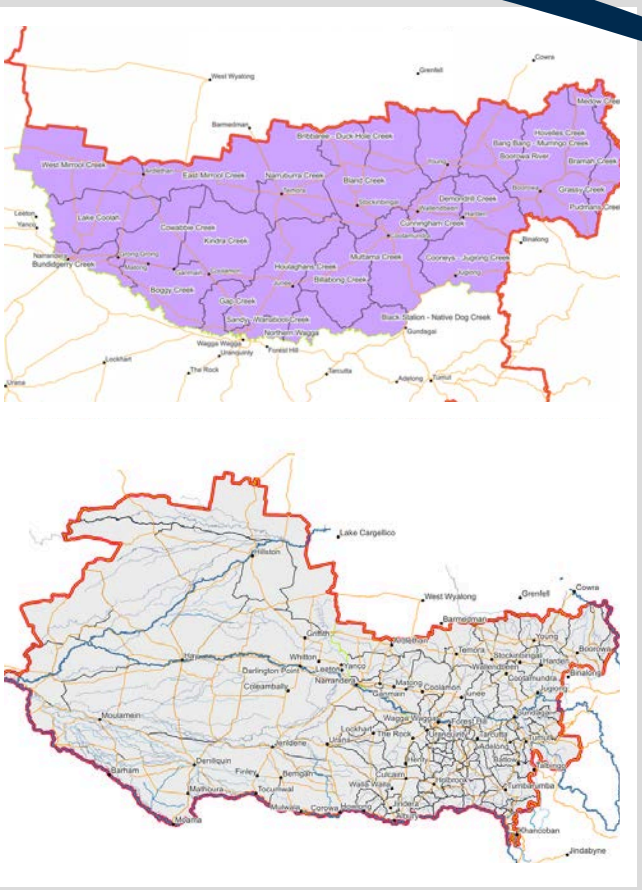
Creating Vegetation Profiles for North of the Murrumbidgee

OBJECTIVES

The Southwest Slopes and Riverina Revegetation Guides have been a vital asset for natural resource managers and Landcare groups. However, the Northern Murrumbidgee Sub catchments with their highly cleared landscapes, were missing from these guides. Our goal was to develop accurate revegetation profiles for this region, offering guidance on the three vegetation layers essential for restoring its unique ecological communities.

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

Creating comprehensive, accurate, and practical revegetation profiles that landholders and staff could readily use has been key to designing revegetation projects. The updated profiles had to reflect the unique needs of the region, with specific guidance for trees, shrubs, and ground covers. We measured success by the involvement of local experts in refining the data, ensuring accuracy, and by making the final profiles accessible to all stakeholders.



Above: Additional Southwest Slopes Sub Catchments
Below: Full coverage Riverina and South West Slopes Revegetation Guides



Planting from 2021 using the old Southwest Slopes guide after the 19 - 20 bushfires

KEY STEPS

- **Mapping:** Using existing revegetation books and digital maps to identify gaps and created vegetation profiles using catchment maps.
- **Research**: Gathering data from online resources like "Trees Near Me," local planting lists, BioNet and council roadside vegetation data.
- **Consultation**: Local Landcare groups and experts were vital in refining this data, providing on-the-ground insights to fill gaps and validate the information.
- **Finalisation**: Consolidation of the information into a cohesive resource that could be shared across platforms to ensure broad accessibility for the community.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

- **Collaboration**: Bringing together Landcare groups, local experts, and councils was vital. Their combined expertise ensured that the profiles were accurate and grounded in practical experience.
- **Use of Technology and Traditional Knowledge**: We leveraged online resources like "Trees Near Me" and digital maps but enhanced this with local, on-the-ground insights. This combination of modern tools and regional knowledge was essential for creating reliable profiles.
- **Community Engagement**: Actively involving the community not only enriched the project with real-world experience but also encouraged a sense of ownership and long-term commitment to the profiles' use.
- **Persistence**: Identifying gaps and refining catchments required patience and ongoing review, but this persistence paid off in the form of a comprehensive, actionable resource.



Reserve used to ground check new veg profiles

KEY LEARNINGS FROM EXPERIENCE

- **Local Knowledge is Indispensable**: While digital resources provided a strong starting point, the knowledge shared by local experts was invaluable in fine-tuning the profiles. Their insights, gained through years of working on the land, brought a level of precision that could not be achieved through online research alone.

- **Collaboration Strengthens Outcomes**: The project's success hinged on strong collaboration across different groups. Engaging Landcare members, local councils, and experts not only filled knowledge gaps but also fostered a sense of ownership and commitment to the profiles' long-term use.

- **Mapping Tools Can Be Challenging**: Using old maps to create new profiles presented some challenges, particularly in accurately identifying gaps and matching them to current ecological realities. However, combining these tools with on-the-ground knowledge allowed us to overcome these obstacles.

- **Ensuing a Legacy:** The original revegetation guides were printed in the late 90's early 00's the data was all but lost except for the few remaining print copies. To ensure this data is available well into the future a smaller print run was organised and a web resource created https://revegetation.org.au

"Local groups were key to our success. Their deep knowledge ensured the profiles were both accurate and practical."

PROJECT OFFICER



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