

Threatened Ecological Communities on Farms project

Fact sheet



The Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) on Farms project aims to support farmers and public land managers to implement management practices that will improve the condition of Box Gum Grassy Woodlands and Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and provide production benefits.

What are Threatened Ecological Communities?

Ecological communities are groups of plants, animals, and other organisms that live and interact in a specific habitat. The native plants and animals in these communities have various roles and relationships that help maintain a healthy environment.

Protecting these native communities supports essential ecosystem services like clean air, healthy soils, and clean water. These services enhance the productivity of our land and water, benefiting the region and its people.



An ecological community is listed as threatened when its range is reduced to small areas to the point where it is at risk of extinction.

In the Central West Local Land Services region:

TEC Name	Commonwealth status	NSW status	% of remaining TEC in CWLLS region
Box Gum Grassy Woodland	Endangered	Critically endangered	5
Grey Box Grassy Woodland	Endangered	Endangered	10

Features of a Box Gum Grassy Woodland

- Dominant overstorey trees- White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*), Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and Blakely's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*).
- Understorey is open and grassy with mostly native grass and shrub species. The TEC must have at least 12 of the listed species and at least one of these has to be classed as important. Scan the QR code for more information.
- The woodland area is bigger than 0.1 ha in size.



Why are TECs important?

TECs provide important social, production and environmental benefits to our farming operations. These include:

- assisting with nutrient and water cycling
- improving soil stability, reducing runoff and helping with water filtration
- helping with air filtration
- sequestering carbon from the atmosphere
- offering a harbour for insects that help pollinate our crops and keep undesirable insects and diseases away
- providing shade and shelter for native animals and livestock
- acting as stepping stones for native fauna to move across patchy landscapes.

How to protect and enhance our TECs

Managing weeds

Weeds impact agricultural production and the environment through competing with desirable species for resources. An integrated approach to weed management incorporates a variety of control methods that work together to combat problem weeds. Some options may be use of biological control methods, chemical control methods (taking care to not damage surrounding native plants), grazing management to reduce seed set and the use of cultural burning.

Scan the QR code to visit NSW WeedWise to learn about common weeds and effective management options.



Reducing livestock impacts

Managing grazing provides many environmental and production benefits in our woodlands. Some considerations in managing livestock to get the most from pastures include:

- Make a plan - Having a good grazing plan determines how much feed you will have, maintains the quality of the feed, informs whether you need to reduce stocking rates and keeps the pastures healthy by promoting seeding cycles.
- Monitor the groundcover - Maintaining good groundcover levels helps to reduce soil loss, improves the nutritional quality of the feed and promotes good soil nutrient cycling and microbial activity.
- Keep it to a minimum in vulnerable landscapes - Endangered TECs are particularly vulnerable to livestock impacts. They should only be grazed for short intervals to maintain a safe fuel load.

Fencing for protection

Total grazing pressure is the impact of all grazing animals on a landscape including kangaroos and pest animals. Exclusion fencing has been popular in managing the impacts of all species on production systems and is highly recommended for TECs. Alternatively, a solid 6-strand fence can be very effective in managing the number of hungry mouths on a paddock. Barbed wire is not recommended as it harms wildlife.

Keeping the pests under control

Managing pest animals reduces the production losses significantly and is a good management practice to incorporate into farming priorities. Coordinated landscape-scale control programs are highly beneficial in keeping pest numbers at bay. Local Land Services coordinates pest control groups across the region and can provide information and advice on integrated control approaches. For more information, contact your Local Land Services biosecurity officer on 1300 795 299.

Learn more about pest species control by scanning the QR code.

Watch our feral pig control success stories: <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/pest-control/vertebrate-pest-animals/feral-pigs/feral-pig-control-success-stories>





Supplementary plantings

Sometimes degraded TECs need a little help to get the balance of species back into the landscape. Supplementary plantings is a good option to improve the diversity and connectivity of species through planting tubestock or direct seeding of trees or shrubs. Local Land Services is able to provide advice on beneficial species to plant and planting techniques.

Planting Your Patch is a useful guide to planning and carrying out your revegetation project. Scan the QR code to read the guide.



Looking after habitat

A TEC would be nothing without its plants, but the wildlife is equally as important. Retaining and adding habitat are the main ways to make grassy woodland remnants attractive to native animals. Leaving fallen timber and woody debris, bush rocks and dead standing trees within a remnant will provide nesting hollows, shelter and places to hide or bask for native animals. Where these features have been removed, they can be reintroduced through specially designed nest boxes for possums, bats and birds, reinstating hollow logs, and augmenting tree hollows in live or dead standing trees.

Local Land Services

For further information about the Threatened Ecological Communities on Farms project in the Central West region contact your local Central West Local Land Services Natural Resource Management team member.



To learn more about the project scan the QR code.

T 1300 795 299
E admin.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au
W www.lls.nsw.gov.au



www.facebook.com/CentralWestLLS

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by Local Land Services, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.



Australian Government