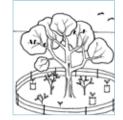


Simple actions can make a big difference in managing and enhancing biodiversity on your land and improving your productivity. You can manage existing grassland, paddock trees or bushland to ensure it is in its best possible condition. You can revegetate cleared or degraded areas.

Here are a few ideas to get you started.

MANAGE Paddock Trees



KEEP AND PROTECT PADDOCK TREES

Paddock trees are vital for wildlife and provide shelter and nutrient cycling for pastures, crops and stock. Protect them from bark damage and keep the area under the canopy drip line undisturbed. In grazing systems, use paddock trees as the basis for creating clumps by fencing and revegetating around them. Old paddock trees are virtually irreplaceable as it takes over 120 years to create hollows suitable for insect-eating birds and bats.

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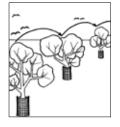
REVEGETATE



CREATE NEW BUSHLAND PATCHES

Patches from ½ to 100 ha provide homes and food for all sorts of wildlife. As they get older the number of animals that can use them increases. The bigger the patch, the more animals can live there. They can be created around existing trees or smaller patches, in the corner of paddocks or out in the open.

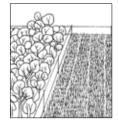
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PLANT SCATTERED TREES

Research shows that many declining bird species can't move across open farmland, but will jump between bushland patches using scattered trees. The gap between trees should be <80m. Plant single trees at wide spacings protected from livestock by sturdy guards. Trees can be in a line or randomly scattered.

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SHELTERBELTS OR ALLEY FARMING

Linear tree corridors can significantly reduce the effect of wind on livestock, crops and pastures. Shelterbelts are usually 3-6 rows wide placed perpendicular to the prevailing or damaging wind direction. Careful design ensures the shelter benefits far outweigh the production lost through competition. Wide-spaced alleys in crops can reduce moisture loss and the abrasive effects of wind-borne soil particles.

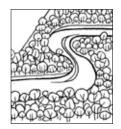
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WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Typical wildlife corridors are belts of trees 15-100m wide linking two patches of bushland. Use a mix of trees and shrubs appropriate to the natural vegetation. Incorporating water (dams, creeks or rivers) into the corridor will increase its habitat value. Corridors should link up to another patch of bushland every 1.5km, otherwise wildlife becomes too vulnerable to predators.

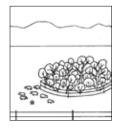




RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Creeks and rivers are usually rich in wildlife and are important corridors. Planting parallel to creeks increases the wildlife value and stabilises banks. Riparian plantings can trap nutrients otherwise washing into creeks. Establishing controlled access points is a good way to limit trampling & streambank erosion.

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MID-PADDOCK CLUMPS

In grazing systems, clumps of trees planted throughout a paddock can provide shade and shelter from wind. Use circular or multi-sided designs so stock can access the shade or shelter anywhere. Specific fencing designs are available. Wildlife will use these clumps as rest stops.

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MANAGE Existing Bushland



FENCE TO MANAGE GRAZING

Putting a fence around a bushland patch doesn't mean it's locked up forever. Put a gate in and you can control when your stock go into the patch and for how long. During the rest periods the native plants will have a chance to grow, flower and set seed, ensuring that they survive.

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MAKE BUSHLAND PATCHES BIGGER

Create a buffer around existing bushland to provide more habitat, increase connectivity and protect the core from damage from fire and storms. Allow natural regeneration to do this or use revegetation techniques.

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INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PLANT SPECIES

Many patches of bushland have fewer species than they should because of past grazing or burning practices. Many patches only have trees and are missing the whole understorey. Selective planting of other species that naturally occur there will increase the habitat for wildlife.

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NORTHERN TABLELANDS LOCAL LAND SERVICES

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