

Background

The Ribbons of Blue, Sashes of Green Project focuses on the box woodlands and ironbark forests found across the central area of the Goulburn Broken Catchment (see map over page).

Box woodlands are generally found in more fertile areas (where about 3-5% remnant vegetation remains) while ironbark forests are found mostly in large forested public land reserves (where more than 50% remnant vegetation remains).

This forest woodland system is important as it is situated between the arid and semi-arid inland environments to the region's north and west and the moister environments to the east and south. Therefore, a diverse number of

species migrate to the area during the hot northern summers and cold southern winters to seek shelter and to forage and breed. In particular, nectar-feeding birds take advantage of the winter-flowering ironbarks that are some of the few tree species that flower at this time of the year. This unique landscape means around 1,500 species of plants and over 250 species of animals, including some 297 plant and 53 animal species classified as extinct, threatened or near threatened, rely on the region for habitat.



Photo: Russell Jones

What is the project aiming to do?

The best examples of the region's remaining box woodlands and ironbark forests are mostly on public land, including roadsides and reserves, making these sites ecologically important for the rich diversity of flora and fauna they support. This project focuses on connecting fragmented large ironbark forest sites through revegetation and protection and improvement of remnant box gum grassy woodlands and waterways on private land. Private land is particularly important for grassy woodlands because although the more fertile areas were cleared, and therefore the threats to biodiversity were greatest, the gains through protection and appropriate management are also far greater. Creating corridors of vegetation linking private and public land helps fauna move through the landscape, which is important for migration and finding food and mates, and builds the resilience of this habitat to climate change.

How to get involved

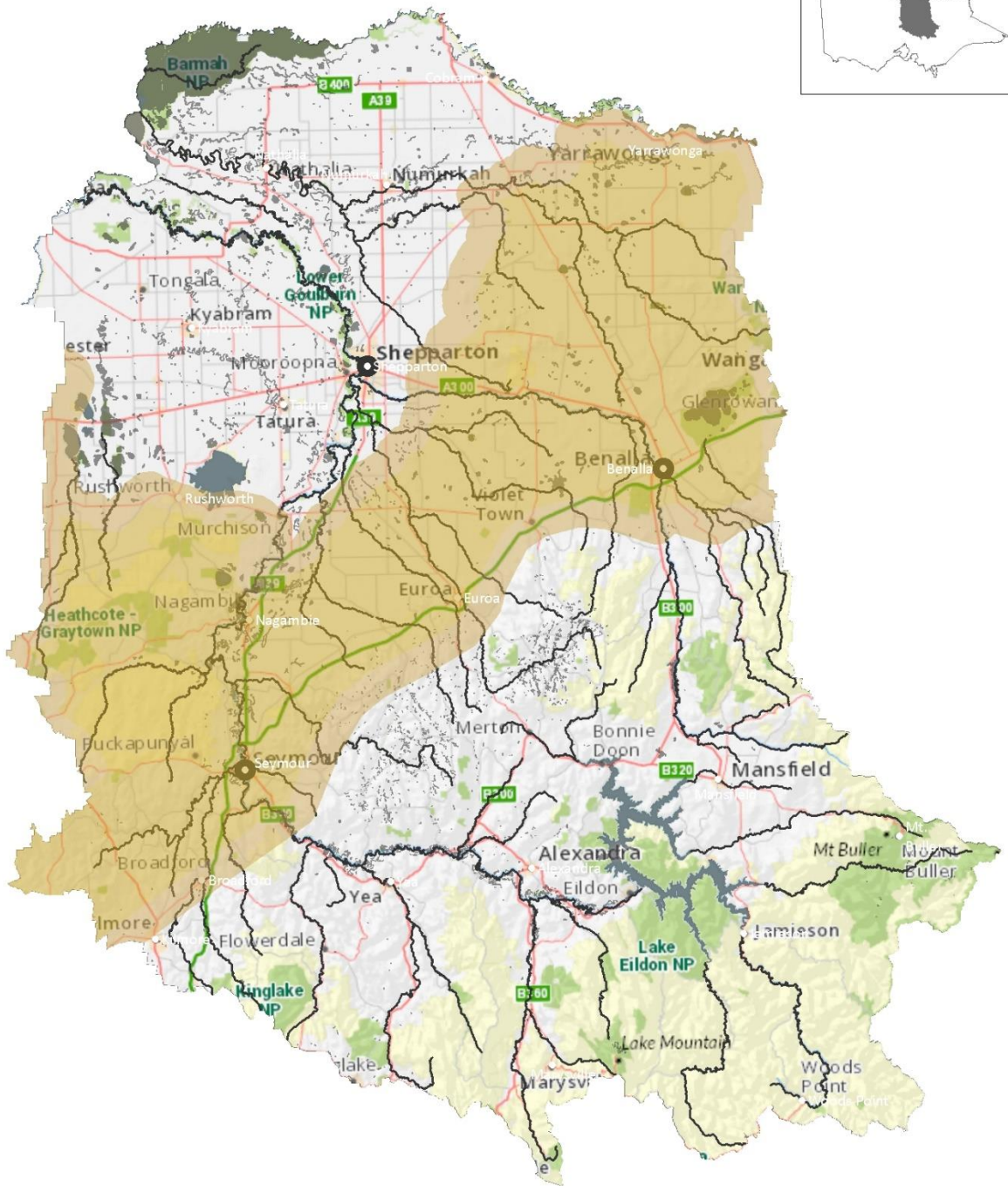
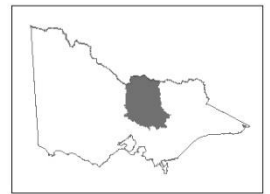
Incentives are available to landholders to carry out revegetation and enhance existing remnant vegetation. This work has many benefits for farmers, including providing shade and shelter for stock and crops, reducing erosion and improving soil stability as well as providing habitat for wildlife (some of which provide positive ecosystem services to farms such as insect control and pollination).

This project will focus on two key areas for private land management:

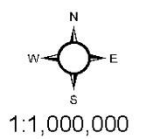
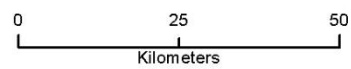
- Protecting and enhancing existing remnant vegetation (e.g. through understorey planting, weed control, pest animal control) and revegetation to create corridors.
- Revegetation and protection of riparian areas (along waterways).

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-  Productive Plains
-  Urban Centres
-  Boundary



Project area = shaded section