

Chapter 7

Woodland landscapes

Since European settlement, extensive areas of the temperate woodlands that once covered large parts of south-eastern Australia have been cleared for cropping and grazing. Increasing urbanisation (around places such as Albury, Bendigo, Ballarat, Canberra, Wagga Wagga, and Wodonga) also has resulted in extensive clearing. The remaining uncleared woodland stands have been subject to grazing by domestic livestock and also suffer from the impacts of feral animals such as rabbits, goats and more recently deer in some places.

RIGHT: Most 'natural' woodlands are comprised of a mix of open grassy patches and more densely timbered areas. This woodland near Canberra is approximately 1500 hectares in size and is the largest red gum-yellow box woodland reserve in public ownership in the world.



LEFT: A landscape near Albury, New South Wales, that is typical of the wheat–sheep region of southern Australia. The woodland in upland areas on the least productive soils often remains relatively intact while the lowland areas on flatter terrain with more productive soils have been extensively cleared.