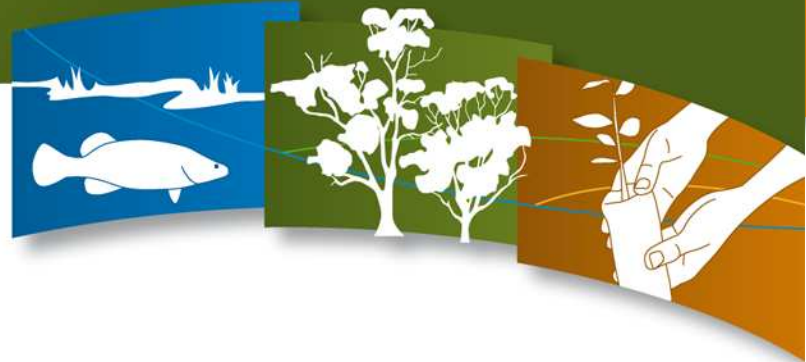


Campaspe Grassy Woodlands Project



The Project

The North Central CMA is seeking landholders in the Lower Campaspe Catchment area interested in caring for their remnant Box-Gum and Grey-Box Grassy Woodlands. Financial assistance is available for landholders who qualify within the guidelines. This funding has been provided by the Australian Governments Caring for our Country Initiative and is being made available to the North Central CMA for on ground works including fencing and revegetation in the project area.

Guidelines

This guideline has been developed to assist private landholders in Central Victoria to identify the nationally endangered White Box, Yellow Box, and Blakely's Red Gum ecological community (Box-Gum Grassy Woodland) and Grey-Box Grassy Woodlands.

Box-Gum and Grey-Box Grassy Woodlands occur through Central Victoria typically on granitic, basalt, sedimentary or alluvial soils. As they once existed in the more fertile areas, much of which has been cleared for agriculture, only a fraction of the pre-European extent remains. Remnants are now often restricted to small isolated pockets on the best managed land.

Grassy woodlands with remnant large old trees are generally 'park like', with spreading trees over a grassy understorey with few shrubs. Remnants can also have many close small trees or be derived grasslands (where trees have been removed and only the grassy or herbaceous understorey remains).



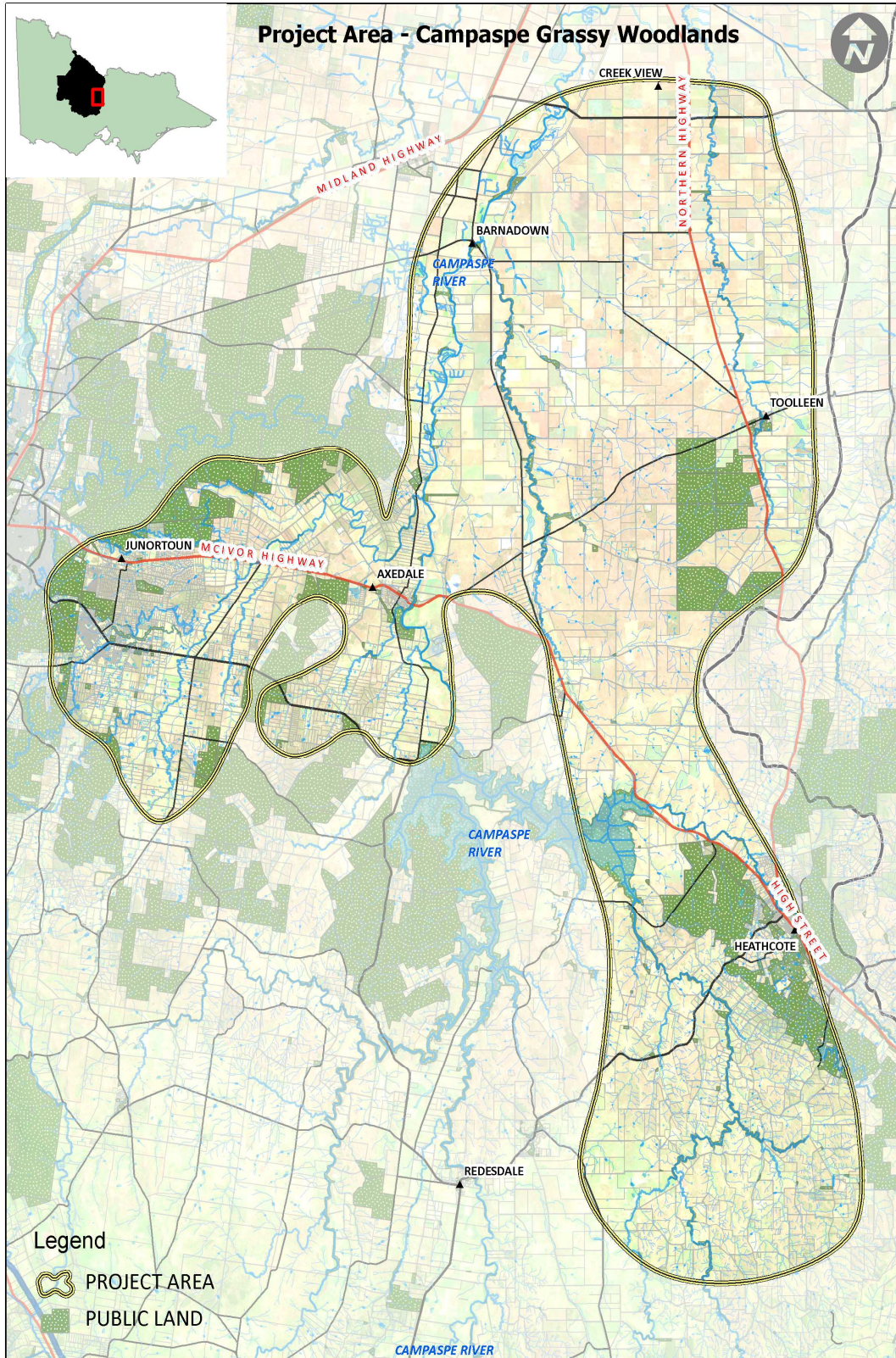
Photo: Robyn McKay

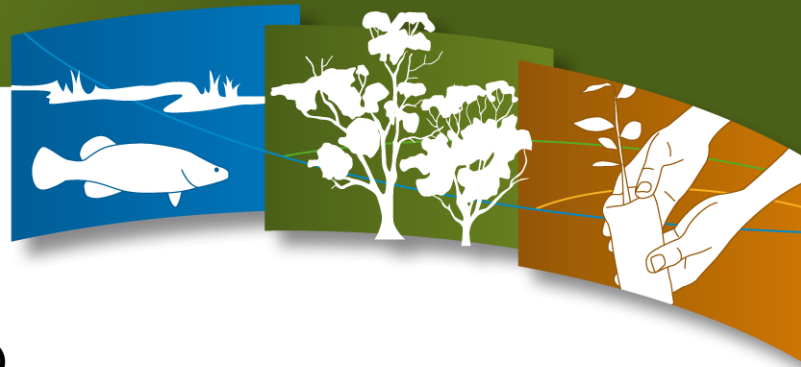
Grassy Woodland

Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



The Project Area





White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*)

These trees have fine pale grey 'box' bark and blue-grey leaves. Buds and fruit (gum nuts) are often glaucous (have a white-waxy coating). Juvenile leaves are oval shaped. Grey-Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) is similar but has a darker, rougher bark and narrower olive-green leaves, including the juvenile foliage. The buds of Grey-Box are never glaucous.

White Box form



Photo: Daniel Arnold

White Box fruit



Photo: Ian Higgins

Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)

These trees have rough, dark brown bark below, peeling to reveal smooth pale bark underneath and on the smaller branches. Leaves are fine and grey-green. The fruit (gum nuts) is short with no protruding valves.

Yellow Box Tree

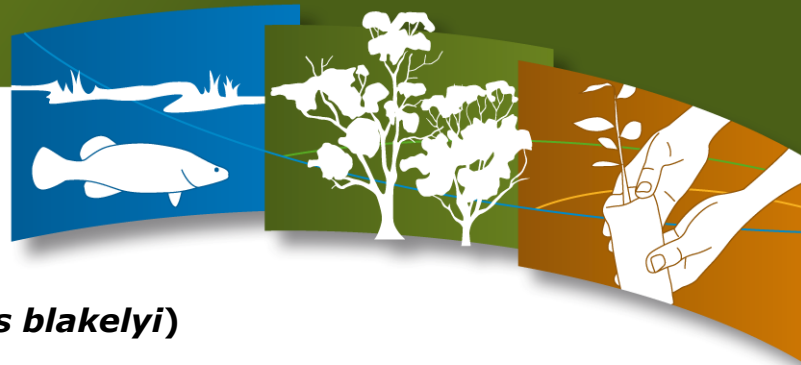


Photo: Daniel Arnold

Yellow Box bark



Photo: Daniel Arnold



Blakely's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*)

These trees are similar to River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) with a patchy grey, cream and white coloured smooth bark but typically short trunked and poorly developed.



Photo: Robyn McKay

Blakely's Red Gum

River Red Gums are found in the wetter parts of the landscape such as on the floodplains and along waterways, whereas Blakely's Red Gums are not. Blakely's Red Gums have a long conical cap on the buds. This species is unlikely to be found within the Mid Loddon Catchment project area.



Photo: Ian Higgins

Grey-Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*)

Grey-Box is a widespread and common tree. In the project area it may be co-dominant with other woodland trees such as Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) or Buloke (*Allocasuarina leuhmannii*). Trees are often quite branched and may be multi-trunked. The bark is fine and scaly, shedding to a smooth paler bark on the upper branches. The olive-green leaves, the buds and the fruit (gum nuts) are smaller than that of White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*) and do not have the glaucous (whitish) coating.

Grey Box form

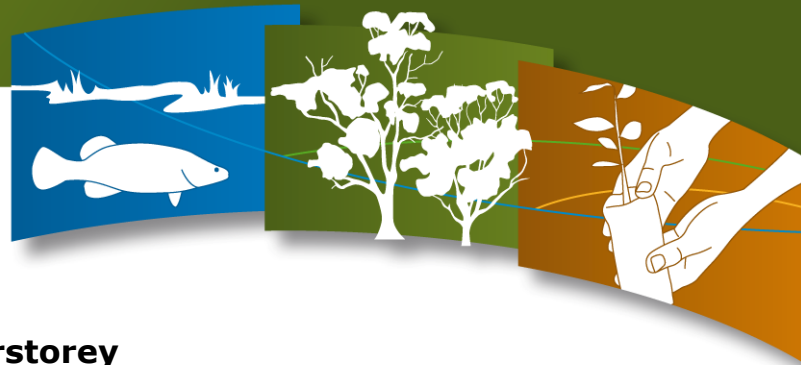


Photo: Robyn McKay

Grey Box leaf (L) and White Box leaf (R)



Photo: Daniel Arnold



Understorey

Box-Gum and Grey-Box Grassy Woodlands should typically have a grassy understorey with few shrubs. Derived grasslands (where trees have been historically cleared) are also part of the ecological community. Wildflowers may be observed when flowering in spring, such as lilies, orchids, daisies and bush peas. Native grasses such as Wallaby Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Spear Grass, Weeping and Red-leg Grasses may dominate and are often green during the summer months when introduced species have died off.



Photo: Daniel Arnold

Kangaroo Grass



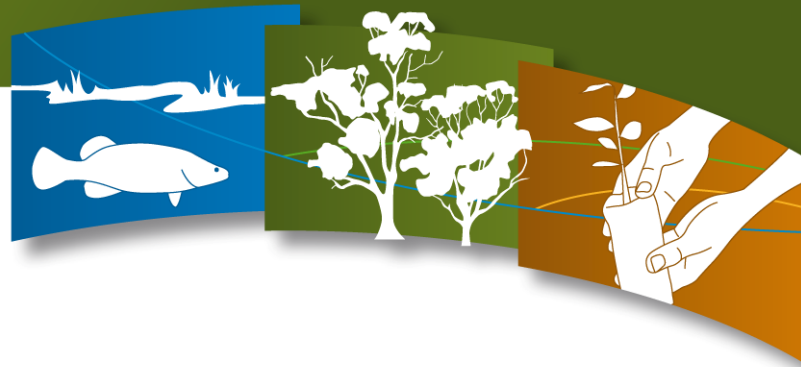
Photo: Robyn McKay

Clustered Everlasting



Photo: Robyn McKay

Wallaby Grass



The Criteria:

The following are guidelines only for self assessing your properties eligibility to be a part of the Campaspe Grassy Woodlands Project

- The land must be within the North Central CMA predetermined area
- At least one of the characteristic trees in this brochure must be present
- The understorey must be less than 50% cover of exotic weeds
- The understorey must contain native grasses and wildflowers
- The land must be at least 0.5ha in size
- The patch must have the potential for natural or assisted regeneration

Landholder actions can prevent further loss of this critically endangered ecological community. Grassy Woodlands can be important to farm productivity by providing shelter for stock, crops and pasture, conserving soils and lowering salinity. Retaining grassy woodlands on your property gives landholders increased opportunities to access funding and alternative incomes through seed collection or honey production. Many native fauna species that utilise Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands as habitat contribute to farm health by consuming insect pests.

If your property classifies according to the guidelines set out in this document or if you require any further information on the Campaspe Grassy Woodlands Project at the North Central CMA, contact Daniel Arnold, Project Officer:

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CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY