

Murray-Riverina Region



**Within this priority area, landscapes are not adequately or comprehensively represented in the NSW reserve system. Some sites will have a higher value than others based on condition, conservation assets and landscape type.*



Located within the Murray-Riverina Region, the first Tender area consists of diverse landscapes and ecosystems.

The tender area falls in the western half of the Murray Local Land Services region within the Local Government Areas of Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Murray River and Murrumbidgee (former Jerilderie). The southern border is formed by the Murray River, and other important watercourses include the Edward, Niemur and Wakool Rivers, and Yanco, Colombo and Billabong Creeks (see map overleaf).

The region is distinguished by the combination of flat plains, relatively fertile soils (particularly in the east), a warm to hot climate which traditionally was dominated by winter rainfall and a good supply of water from the permanent river systems.

This combination has allowed the Riverina to develop into one of the most productive and agriculturally diverse areas of Australia, with grazing, cropping and irrigation enterprises well established within the region.

One of the most intact vegetation types in the region is Red River Gum Forest which dominates the river edges and associated wetlands. These forests are one of Australia's greatest ecological assets, and teem with wildlife, particularly birds and mammals.

Away from the river, but on the floodplain, various woodlands and shrublands occur. These depend on soil type and flood frequency but include Black Box Woodlands, and lignum and goosefoot swamps. The condition of the riparian and floodplain communities is dependent on the availability of water, with regular winter-spring floods historically important for their health.

There are various woodlands in the region, most of which are highly fragmented and are therefore listed as threatened ecological communities. In the east and south these are dominated by Yellow and Grey Box (Grassy Box Woodlands) while other areas are dominated by species such as Buloke, Boree and White Cypress Pine.

The northern parts of the region are dominated by native grasslands, which are the habitat of the iconic threatened bird, the Plains-wanderer, plus a host of specialist birds, mammals and reptiles. The far west also includes areas of chenopod shrublands, with the dominant species often depending on subtle differences in soil type and grazing history.

Within the tender area, the remaining vegetation is either in highly cleared landscapes or under-represented in the formal reserve system (or both). Owners of land within the priority areas shown on the map may be eligible to participate in the Conservation Tender if they:

- are in Priority areas show on the map
- have a minimum 20ha area proposed to be conserved and managed for biodiversity.

For more information on how to participate, refer to detailed information at www.bct.nsw.gov.au or phone **1300 992 688**.

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