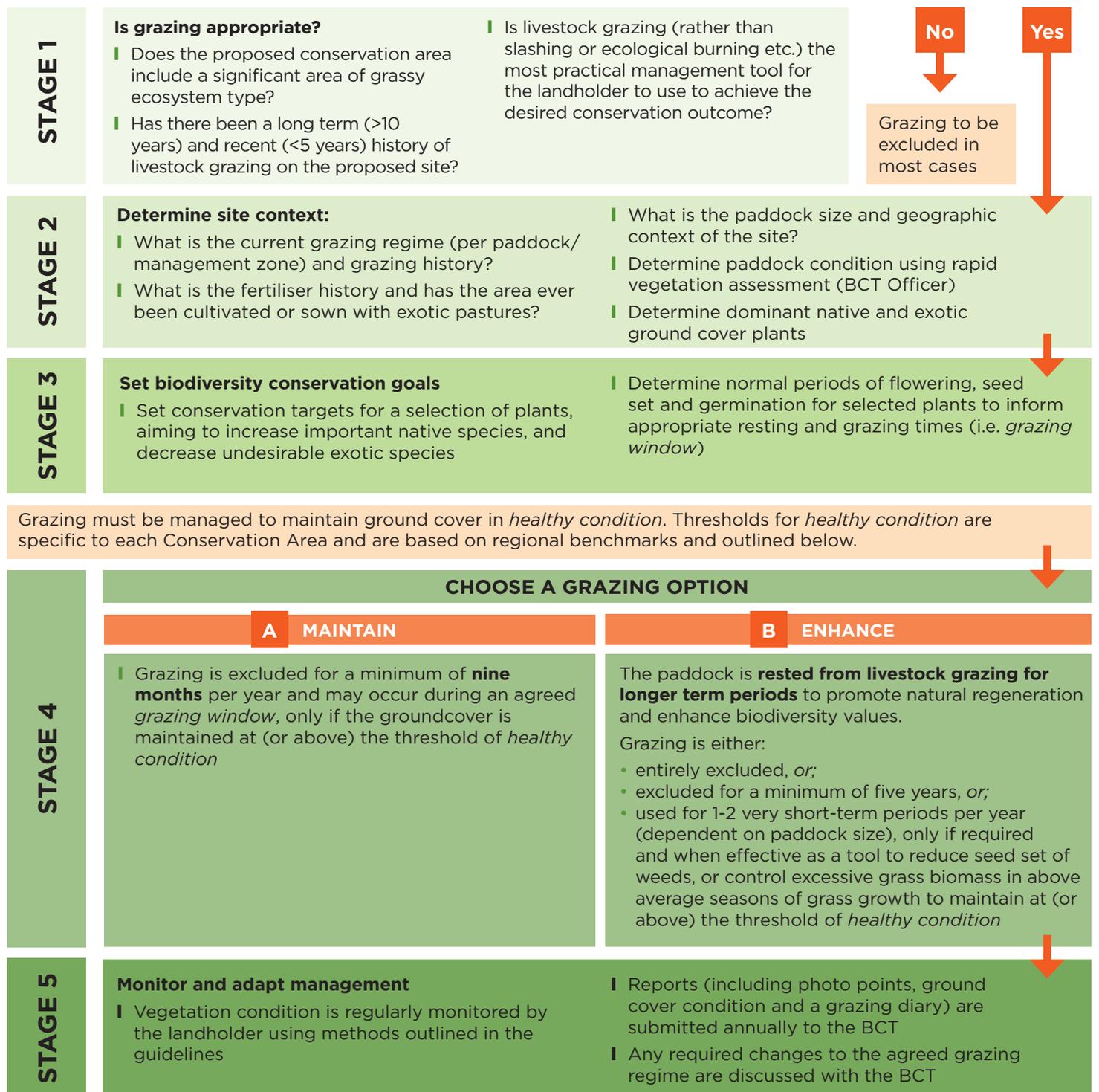


Livestock Grazing Management



NOTE: If the ground cover within a paddock is observed by the landholder or deemed by the NSW BCT to be below the defined threshold of healthy condition, livestock must be removed from the paddock, or not introduced into the paddock. Should this occur, livestock must not be reintroduced until the next grazing window and until ground cover exceeds healthy condition.

'Definitions are based on Total Grazing Pressure—note provisions to conduct over abundant native herbivore control within the Agreement, and control of feral herbivores as actions within the Management Plan.

Condition	Thresholds	Other indicators	Landholder action
Native grassy vegetation is considered in healthy condition if:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % Ground cover is maintained at or above the minimum threshold for the region (<i>Table 1</i>). Average leaf height of dominant native grass species is maintained at or above the minimum threshold (<i>Table 2</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Vegetation Integrity attributes are at or close to benchmark. Vegetation Integrity = >80 During spring and summer, a range of native wildflowers should be visible along with evidence that following suitable climatic conditions the native grasses have successfully flowered & set seed. Soils should be intact – the bare areas are usually covered by lichen, moss, an algal crust or leaf litter There should be little or no cover of High Threat Weeds and those present are being actively suppressed (<1% summed foliage cover) Open spaces between the taller grass tussocks should be maintained for a diversity of native plants and fauna habitat. <p><i>Additionally</i> In grassy woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be evidence of tree and shrub recruitment Vegetation Integrity function attributes at or close to benchmark <p>Where wetlands, marshes, streams and soaks are present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little or no evidence of soil pugging and bank erosion or browsing on unpalatable species Little or no evidence of water contamination and turbidity caused by livestock and livestock faeces. 	Regular monitoring to ensure condition is maintained and/or further improved towards benchmark for all Vegetation Integrity attributes and target groundcover maintained at or above threshold.
Native grassy vegetation is considered in Deteriorated Condition if:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % Ground cover falls below the minimum threshold for the region (<i>Table 1</i>). Average leaf height of dominant native grass species falls below the minimum threshold (<i>Table 2</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Vegetation Integrity attributes are below benchmark <80 Soil crust may not be intact and evidence that some surface litter are transported (indicating poor resource conservation and potential soil erosion). Increased browsing by livestock of plants that are normally less preferred becomes evident erosion, soil pugging and water contamination in Wetlands, marshes, streams and soaks may be evident <p><i>Additionally</i> In grassy woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation Integrity function attributes below benchmark Lack of tree and shrub recruitment (noting episodic nature of recruitment) <p>Where wetlands, marshes, streams and soaks are present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil erosion, soil pugging and water contamination in wetlands, marshes, streams and soaks is being caused by grazing livestock 	<p>Livestock must be removed from paddock and it rested for an extended period, usually until the next <i>grazing window</i>.</p> <p>Livestock should not be reintroduced until the vegetation meets or exceeds the <i>healthy condition</i> thresholds.</p> <p>If a paddock becomes degraded then the Landholder should consult the BCT to consider the need for a long-term adjustment to the grazing regime or other strategies to prevent these circumstances from repeating.</p>

% Ground cover - including living vegetation, dry litter, coarse woody debris (logs), mosses and lichens, excluding bare ground surface and rock

Table 1 - Ground cover thresholds and monitoring requirements per region

IBRA region	Agro-climatic Description	Rainfall (mm) ³ .	Healthy Condition Threshold (% Ground Cover)
Australian Alps	Cold winters, summers short	1025	80
Brigalow Belt South	Winters mild, even growth throughout year	644	80
Broken Hill Complex	Semi-arid, moisture highest in winter	206	50-60
Channel Country	Desert, water limited	175	50-60
Cobar Peneplain	Semi-arid, moisture highest in winter	379	50-70
Darling Riverine Plains	Semi-arid, moisture highest in winter	379	50-60
Mulga Lands	Semi-arid, moisture highest in winter	297	50-60
Murray Darling Depression	Semi-arid, moisture highest in winter	254	50-60
Nandewar	Summer moisture limiting, winters cool	721	80
New England Tablelands	Max moisture availability winter-spring	824	80
NSW North Coast	Warm and wet	1104	80
NSW South Western Slopes	Summer moisture limiting, winters cool	595	80
Riverina	Dry cool winters	327	70-80
Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields	Desert, water limited	149	50-60
South East Corner	Temperate wet	807	80
South Eastern Highlands	Max moisture availability winter-spring	682	80
South Eastern Queensland	Warm and wet	1297	80
Sydney Basin	Temperate wet	881	80

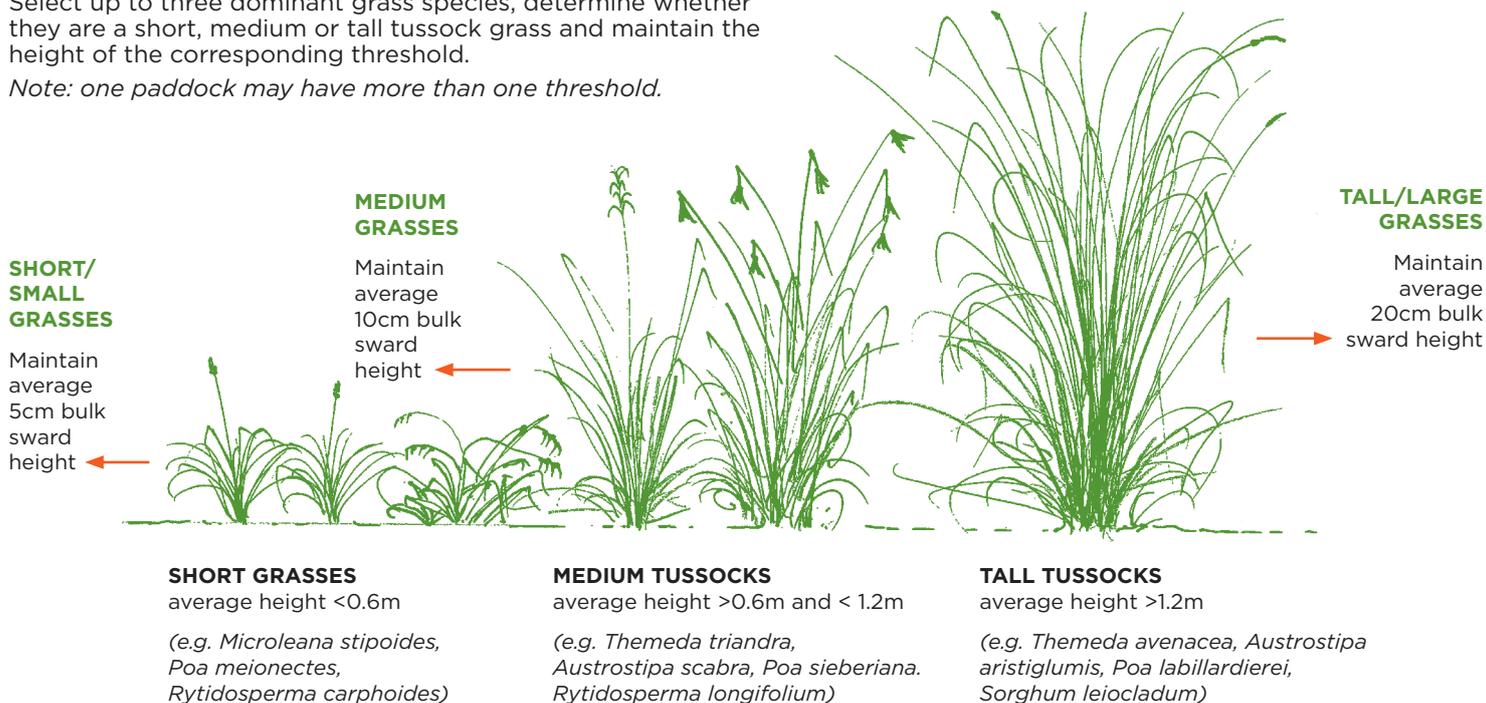
% Ground cover - includes living vegetation, dry litter, coarse woody debris (logs), mosses and lichens, excluding exposed bare ground surface and rock

*where a range is specified, use rainfall gradient to determine appropriate threshold

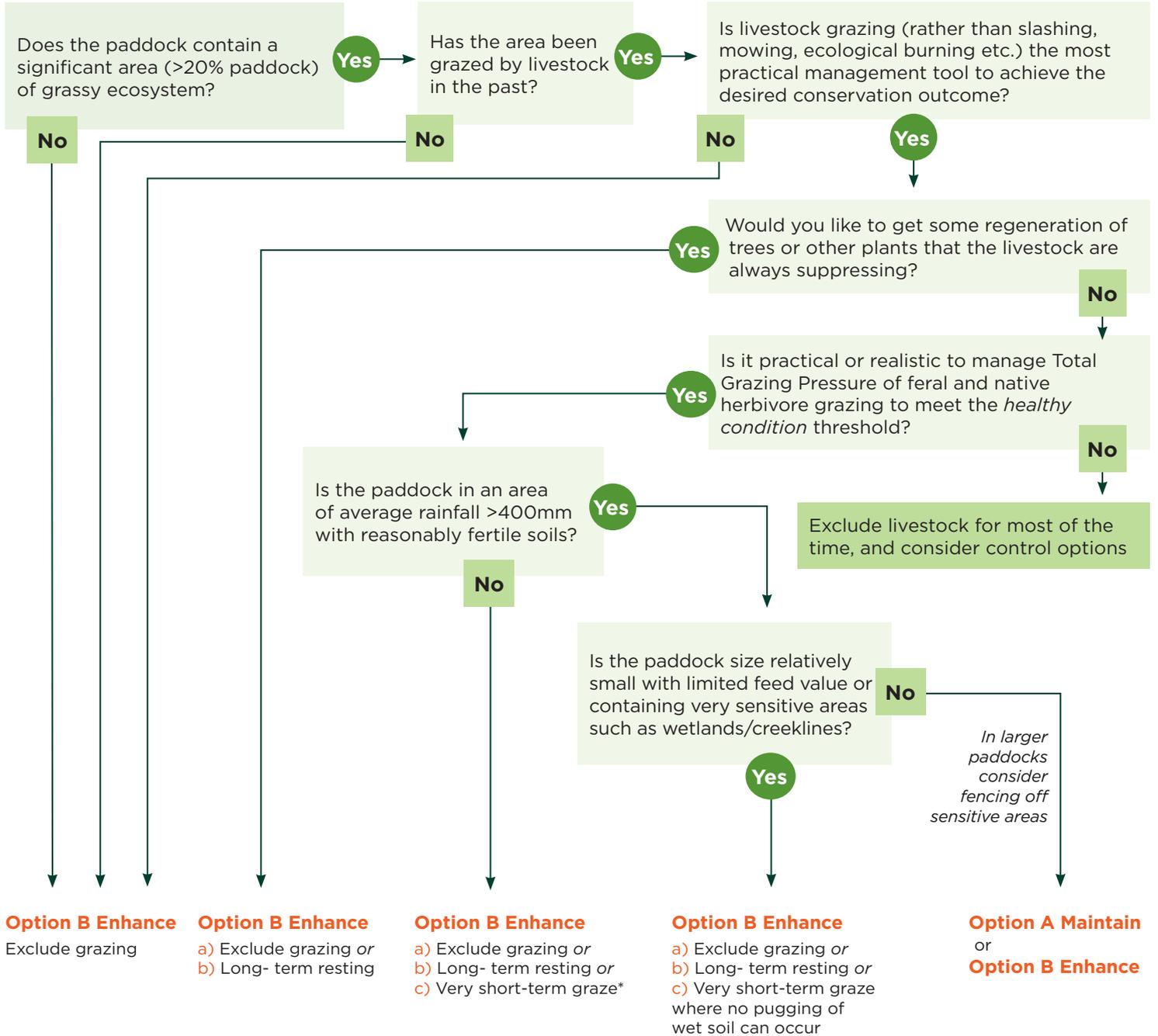
Table 2 - Native grass sward height thresholds

Select up to three dominant grass species, determine whether they are a short, medium or tall tussock grass and maintain the height of the corresponding threshold.

Note: one paddock may have more than one threshold.



Guidance for setting appropriate management options for livestock grazing in conservation agreements



OPTION A MAINTAIN

Grazing is excluded for a minimum of **nine months** per year and may occur during an agreed *grazing window*, only if the groundcover is maintained at (or above) the threshold of *healthy condition*

OPTION B ENHANCE

The paddock is rested from livestock grazing for longer term periods to promote natural regeneration and enhance biodiversity values. Grazing is either:

- a) entirely excluded, or;
- b) excluded for a minimum of five years, or;
- c) used for 1-2 very short-term periods per year (dependent on paddock size), only if required and when effective as a tool to reduce seed set of weeds, or control excessive grass biomass in above average seasons of grass growth to maintain at (or above) the threshold of *healthy condition*.

*Option A may only occur in exceptional circumstances.