

# WHAT IS BOX GUM WOODLAND?

In the ACT, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum are common trees on rural properties. These trees are important in the landscape as they play a role in nutrient and water cycling and provide habitat for wildlife and shade for stock. These trees, along with the grasses, shrubs and wildflowers beneath them, and the insects, birds and mammals that depend on them, are known as the Box Gum Woodland community. When Box Gum Woodland is of high quality and meets a specific set of criteria, it is considered by the Commonwealth Government to be an Endangered Ecological Community (White Box - Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Tall Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland) under the EPBC Act (The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Protection Act 1999) and is also listed under ACT legislation (Nature Conservation Act). To retain the quality of these woodland areas, if the area meets the criteria for the Endangered Ecological Community below, specific activities require approval under the EPBC Act.

## Criteria to determine whether Box Gum Woodland is part of the Endangered Ecological Community:

- Yellow Box or Blakely's Red Gum are the dominant trees
- At least 50 % of the perennial grass cover is made up of native species
- The patch of woodland is 0.1 ha or larger
- There are 12 or more native non-grass plants present in the area

OR

- Yellow Box or Blakely's Red Gum are the dominant trees
- At least 50 % of the perennial grass cover is made up of native species
- The patch of woodland is 2 ha or larger
- There are at least 20 large trees per ha or natural regeneration of Yellow Box or Blakely's Red Gum trees

If the woodland does not meet the above criteria it is not considered part of the Endangered Ecological Community (EEC). For example, if the woodland contains Yellow Box trees, but there are more Apple Box than Yellow Box, it is not part of the EEC. If the woodland patch contains Yellow Box or Blakey's Red Gum, but the ground layer is dominated by African Lovegrass or perennial introduced pasture grasses, it is not part of the EEC.

It is difficult to determine whether the woodland is the Endangered Ecological Community without assessing the site on the ground (and at the correct time of year). If you are still unsure whether you have the Box Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community on your property, we are happy to come and have a look for you.

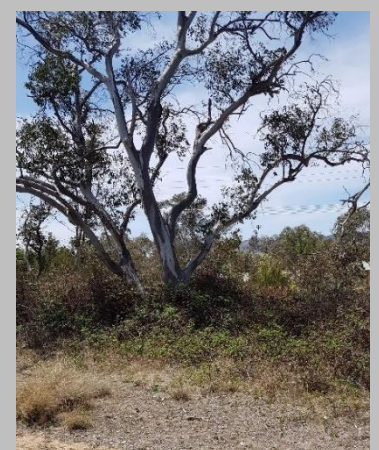
## Please contact us to arrange a site visit:

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*Example of Box Gum Woodland that is part of the Endangered Ecological Community*



*Example of Box Gum Woodland that is not part of the Endangered Ecological Community*