Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

NVIS Fact sheet
MVG 10 – Other forests and woodlands

Australia's native vegetation is a rich and fundamental element of our natural heritage. It binds and nourishes our ancient soils; shelters and sustains wildlife, protects streams, wetlands, estuaries, and coastlines; and absorbs carbon dioxide while emitting oxygen. The National Vegetation Information System (NVIS) has been developed and maintained by all Australian governments to provide a national picture that captures and explains the broad diversity of our native vegetation.

This is part of a series of fact sheets which the Australian Government developed based on NVIS Version 4.2 data to provide detailed descriptions of the major vegetation groups (MVGs) and other MVG types. The series is comprised of a fact sheet for each of the 25 MVGs to inform their use by planners and policy makers. An additional eight MVGs are available outlining other MVG types.

For more information on these fact sheets, including its limitations and caveats related to its use, please see: 'Introduction to the Major Vegetation Group (MVG) fact sheets'.

Overview

Typically, vegetation areas classified under MVG 10 – Other forests and woodlands:

- cover a series of forests and woodlands of limited extent including those dominated by *Leptospermum* and the *Banksia* species on the south-eastern, eastern and western coastal areas, and the *Agonis* forests of the western temperate coastal areas near Gardner River in Western Australia
- comprise a variety of woodlands that is extensive and includes the northern mixed species woodlands dominated by genera such as *Lysiphyllum*, *Pandanus*, *Terminalia* and *Adansonia* (where foliage projective cover >10 per cent) woodlands in northern Australia. Other inland woodlands include those dominated by *Hakea*, *Heterodendron*, *Myoporum* and Geijera-Flindersia woodlands in the northern sub-humid/semi-arid areas, and the *Macropteranthes* (bonewood) and *Lysiphyllum* communities of inland Queensland
- have Victorian examples that include *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Acacia melanoxylon* and *Allocasuarina verticillata* communities; *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Allocasuarina verticillata* mixed woodland; *Banksia integrifolia* and *Banksia serrata* woodlands; *Alectryon oleifolius* ssp. *canescens*, *Myoporum platycarpum* grassy woodlands
- exhibit a variety of subforms with diverse understoreys ranging from low trees and shrubs, to low shrubs and tussock grasses depending on the environments that they occur in – from northern monsoon regions through semi-arid rangelands to temperate coastal areas in the south-east and western areas of Australia.

(Banner Photo) *Banksia* woodland, Swan Coastal Plain, WA (Photo: D. Keith)

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Facts and figures

Major Vegetation Group	MVG 10 - Other forests and woodlands
Major Vegetation Subgroups	11. Tropical mixed spp forests and woodlands 16. Other forests and woodlands 50. Banksia woodlands 58. Leptospermum forests and woodlands
Typical NVIS structural formations	Mid closed forest Open forest (tall, mid, low) Woodland (tall, mid, low) Open woodland (mid, low) Low mallee woodland
Number of IBRA regions	56
Most extensive in IBRA region **(Est. pre-1750 and present)**	Gulf Plains (Qld, NT)
Estimated pre-1750 extent (km²)	50 369
Present extent (km²)	44 550
Area protected (km²)	5 288

Structure and physiognomy

- Covers a wide range of canopy structures from forest to low open woodlands.
- Exhibits a wide range of understorey structure from low trees and shrubs, to low shrubs and tussock grasses depending on environmental conditions.

Indicative flora

- In most cases, the canopy species of this MVG are non-eucalypt and in temperate Australia can include species of *Acacia, Agonis, Banksia, Leptospermum, Syncarpia* and other genera.
- In Victoria, dominant species include *Eucalyptus viminalis, Acacia melanoxylon* and *Allocasuarina verticillata* communities; *Leptospermum lanigerum, Allocasuarina verticillata* mixed woodland; *Banksia integrifolia* and *Banksia serrata* woodlands; *Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *canescens, Myoporum platycarpum* grassy woodlands.
- Tasmanian communities mainly consist of *Leptospermum* and banksia species.
- In tropical latitudes dominant genera include *Lysiphyllum, Pandanus, Terminalia* and in some instances *Adansonia* (baobab) where not assigned to MVG 31 (Other open woodlands with foliage projective cover <10 per cent, crown cover <20 per cent).
- Inland woodlands included in this MVG include those dominated by Hakea, Heterodendrum, Geijera, Flindersia and Myoporum, with Macropteranthes and Lysiphyllum in subtropical Queensland.

Terminalia fitzgeraldii, Kimberley, WA (Photo: M. Fagg)

Environment

- Distributed across a wide range of environmental conditions including monsoonal, semi-arid rangelands to humid temperate coastal areas.

Geography

- Scattered across the continent from northern tropical regions through semi-arid rangelands to temperate coastal areas in the south-east and western areas of Australia.
- Largest areas occur in Northern Territory (19 229km2) and Queensland (15 853km2).

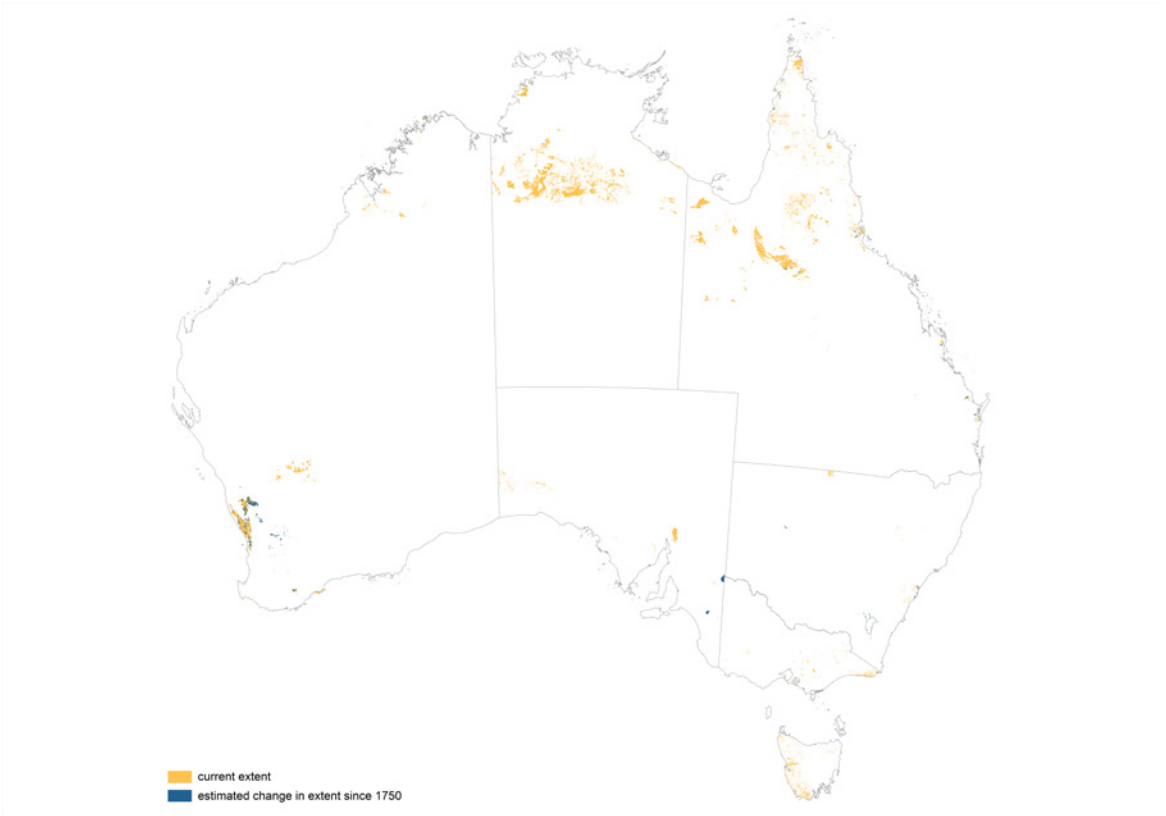
The image below outlines the location of this MVG group in Australia.

Change

- Approximately 12 per cent (5 800 km2) of the estimated pre-1750 extent cleared accounting for 0.6 per cent of total clearing in Australia.
- Northern and inland forests and woodlands have been modified by pastoral activities.
- Southern coastal forests and woodlands have been cleared for urban development. Some forests have been thinned to encourage the growth of ground layer grasses or partly cleared for cropping.
- Foremost threats are fragmentation of woodland areas, inappropriate fire regimes (e.g. too regular or intense), grazing, and clearing.
- Other threats include urban encroachment on the banksia forests and woodlands that occur on coastal areas, while fire regimes can affect the communities in the northern and inland areas.

Key values

- Biodiversity including a diversity of overstorey and understorey species, restricted ecological communities and endangered species.
- Remnant populations of a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate species.
- Ecotourism including bushwalking and landscape features.
- Key values are primarily the restricted ecological communities and the protection of endangered species. These are significant in forest and woodland areas which are either geographically restricted in area or have become restricted through fragmentation.



List of key management issues

- Maintenance of local site conditions that support these communities, (e.g. hydrological, fire and grazing regimes).
- Control of clearing and edge effects.
- Wildlife corridors between remnant patches of vegetation.
- Tourist/visitor management (scenic landscapes).
- Weed control.
- Long-term monitoring to inform future management strategies.

References

Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (1990) *Atlas of Australian Resources. Volume 6 Vegetation*. AUSMAP, Department of Administrative Services, Canberra, 64pp. & 2 maps.

Beadle N.C.W. (1981) *The Vegetation of Australia*. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 690pp.

National Land and Water Resources Audit (2001) *Australian Native Vegetation Assessment 2001*. National Land and Water Resources Audit, Canberra, 332pp.

Specht R.L. and Specht A. (1999) *Australian Plant Communities. Dynamics of Structure, Growth and Biodiversity*. Oxford University Press.

Data sources

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 7.

National Vegetation Information System, Version 4.2.

Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database – CAPAD 2014 – Terrestrial.

Tropical woodland near a mud spring, Qld (Photo: C. Slatyer)