

Threatened Flora of the South East

# Buloke *Allocasuarina leuhmannii* Woodland

Endangered

## Location

Buloke Woodland is of restricted distribution in South Australia. The largest remaining areas are in Upper South East region around the locations of Bordertown, Mundulla, Custon and Frances. Buloke Woodland now only occupies about 3 percent of the area it once did before European settlement.

## Conservation Rating

Buloke Woodland is a listed endangered ecological community under Commonwealth legislation

## Recovery

To ensure the continued survival of Buloke Woodland the Department for Environment and Heritage has a recovery program underway.

## What does Buloke look like?

- a leafless tree (has fine twisted grey-green branchlets instead) to 15 m tall
- the branchlets are typically upright unlike similar looking casuarinas
- separate male and female flowers between September-November Males have orange stamens and females have a dense tuft of red styles
- fruit consists of a short woody cone with many beaked capsules and characteristically has only 2-3 rows of capsules

Buloke Woodlands in South Australia occur on heavy clay soils and have a grassy understorey with few medium or large shrubs present. For the purpose of this factsheet Buloke Woodland is a plant community where Buloke (*Allocasuarina leuhmannii*) is the dominant tree species. In the Upper South East Buloke may be associated with the following tree species:

- Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*)
- Dryland Tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*)
- Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*), and
- Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylo* ssp. *pruinosa*)

Buloke is one of only three species that the endangered South-eastern Red-tail Black-cockatoo feeds on and hence is important to the bird's survival. Buloke Woodland is also home to other threatened plant species such as the Pink Mulla-mulla (*Ptilotus exaltatus* var. *semilanatus*), Leafy Templetonia (*Templetonia stenophylla*) and Golden Billy-buttons (*Pycnosorus chrysanthes*).



Buloke woodland

## Threats



Small population size



Habitat fragmentation



Rabbit, goat, deer grazing



Stock grazing



Disturbance of roadside vegetation



Competition from weeds



Lack of recruitment of trees and component species

Ecosystems that are endangered often exist in less than ideal situations, where various processes can threaten their ability to survive in an intact state.

Serious threats to this ecosystem include:

- habitat fragmentation
- grazing by stock and introduced herbivores
- competition from weeds
- disturbance of roadside vegetation
- small size of remnants
- lack of recruitment of trees and component species

## Where does it occur?

Some of the most intact examples of Buloke Woodland can be found at Wolseley Common Conservation Park, Frances Cemetery and Pooginagoric - Teatrick Roadside Reserve

## Recovery

Aim: to manage immediate threats and to restore and maintain habitat through:

- weed control – mainly exotic grasses and Bridal Creeper
- improving our knowledge on the communities' ecology and responses to ecological disturbance and weed invasion
- linking remnants through revegetating roadside corridors where appropriate
- increase population size at important remnants i.e. Wolseley Common through direct planting
- increasing the amount of Buloke in reserves/under covenant



Mature Buloke paddock tree

## How you can help

Helping to save threatened species and communities is something that everyone can become involved in.

- protect native plants and habitat on your property from grazing, weeds and clearance
- join your local Landcare or Friends of Parks groups
- use minimum disturbance methods to control weeds and feral animals

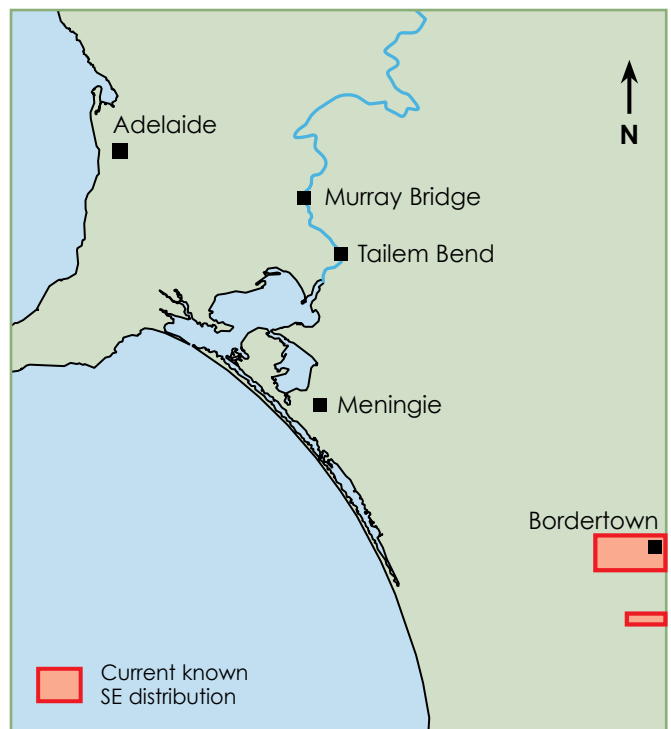


Buloke woody cones

## Further reading

Johnson, R. (2005). Regional Action Plans for the Recovery of Threatened Flora and Ecological Communities in the South East of SA. South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage, Mount Gambier.

Stokes, A. (1996). A Biological Survey of Box and Buloke Grassy Woodland in the Upper South East of South Australia. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Australia.



## Contact

Threatened Species Program  
Department for Environment and Heritage  
Mount Gambier  
Ph: (08) 8735 1177

## Further Information

Biodiversity Conservation Programs  
Department for Environment and Heritage  
Telephone (08) 8222 9422  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

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