



Alcoa 1 Million Trees

Contributing to Habitat 141⁰ and The Peel Biolink

Jess Gardner, Dave Warne and Doug Phillips

Greening Australia's long-term industry partner Alcoa is committed to landscape scale restoration programs

Alcoa is contributing 1 million trees towards two landscape-scale restoration projects in Australia. This will see up to 660 hectares of previously cleared land restored to native habitat in 'The Peel Biolink' in Western Australia and 'Habitat 141⁰' in South-Eastern Australia.

Not only does this allow us to undertake some large scale restoration projects but importantly enables us to bring some matching industry funds to our partners in these landscapes.

The following projects are different areas of the Habitat 141⁰ landscape that have been selected because of their unique biodiversity values and restoration potential.

Habitat 141⁰ Woodlands for Connectivity

330 hectares of new vegetation will be established within identified priority corridors, with this initial investment being targeted for the Glenelg-Hopkins and Wimmera catchments in South-East of South Australia and Victoria. All project sites align with extensive Conservation Action Planning in these regions. Important species intended to benefit from these works include the Red-tail Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksia*), Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Hooded Robin (*Malanodryas cucullata cucullata*) and Brolga (*Grus rubicunda*).



Photo – Rob Farnes - Malleefowl



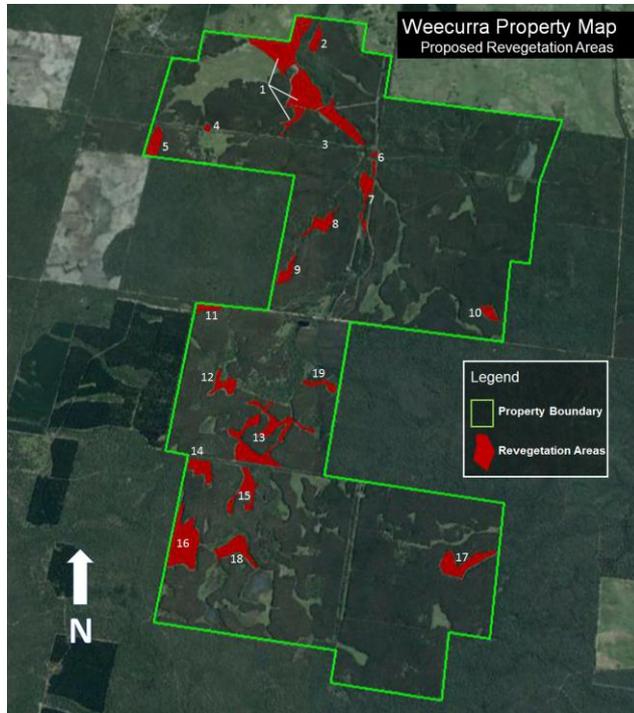
Photo – Bob McPherson – Brolgas flying

Weecurra property – Restoring Connectivity to Forestry Plantations

Restoration of the Weecurra property has been identified as of high strategic importance due to its contribution to expanding depleted habitat types, and also by improving regional landscape connectivity.

The property is made up of three distinct habitat types, Manna Gum Woodland, Heathy Woodland, and Swamp Scrub. Manna Gum Woodlands have been disproportionately cleared for agriculture across Habitat 141⁰, and provide important habitat for a number of threatened species. These include ground-dwelling mammals, nationally declining bird species such as the Black-chinned Honeyeater, numerous threatened orchid species and

the Yellow-bellied Glider. Heathy Woodland is important for threatened species such as the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Heath Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot, and Swamp Scrub provides important habitat for the Swamp Antechinus. The property also contains numerous seasonal wetlands, which several pairs of Brolgas regularly use for nesting.



Weecurra Revegetation Areas



Yellow-bellied Glider Feed Tree on Weecurra Property

The property is owned by New Forests and around two thirds of the property is used commercially for growing Blue Gums. Approximately 10% of the property is native vegetation, and a further 24% of the property is not suitable for growing Blue Gums.

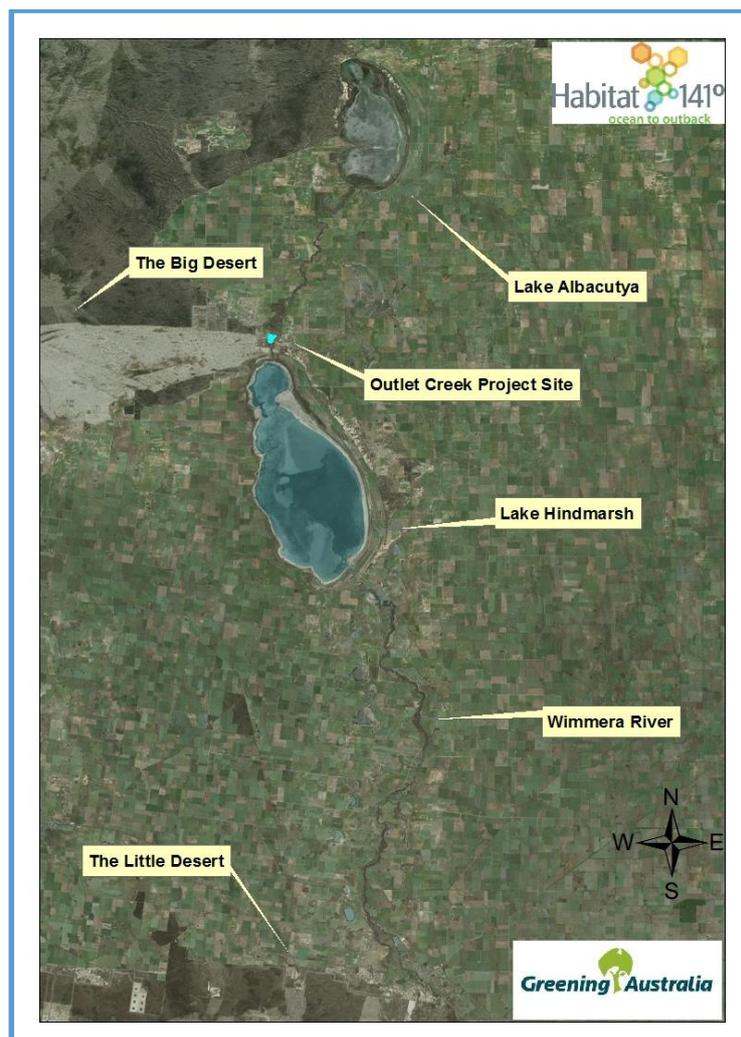
Greening Australia has combined resources with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority to undertake 123 ha of revegetation in strategic sites across the non-commercial areas on the property to restore connectivity and increase the extent of depleted habitat types, and is working with New Forests and their plantation manager PF Olsen.

Outlet Creek – Enhancing the Wimmera River Corridor

The Wimmera River is a key environmental asset within the Habitat 141^o landscape, forming a natural corridor from the Grampians across to the Little Desert and ending in a series of terminal lakes, the first being Lake Hindmarsh.

The objective for the Wimmera River Corridor is to enhance the in-stream and stream side habitat by buffering existing remnant vegetation and revegetating to widen the corridor. At this project site we are working with the Rainbow Landcare Group to ensure local ownership and engagement with the project.

Significant species intended to benefit from the restoration of the 8 hectares include the Malleefowl (*Leipoa occilata*), Mallee Emu-wren (*Stipiturus mallee*), Splendid Fairy Wren (*Malurus splendens*), Mitchells Hopping Mouse (*Notomys mitchellii*), Purple-gaped honeyeater (*Lichenostomus cratitius*) and Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthoepus*).



Mosquito Creek Catchment – Protecting the Health of Bool Lagoon

The Habitat 141⁰ Wimmera Woodland and Wetlands Conservation Action Planning process identified the Mosquito Creek Catchment as a high priority for conservation actions. A number of cross-border streams and their tributaries originate in Victoria and run into South Australia. Mosquito creek is the most significant of these cross-border streams. It flows into Hacks Lagoon and any overflow ends up in Bool Lagoon, a wetland of international significance. Whilst these streams are an important habitat for small remaining native fish and frog populations they are also severely affected by the intensive farming practices that occur along them.

Our objective for this part of Habitat 141⁰ is to improve the instream habitat quality of Mosquito Creek in priority areas by 2020.

The Alcoa 1 Million Trees program is contributing to achieving this objective by targeting a number of sites along the tributaries of the Mosquito creek for stock exclusion, fencing and revegetation.

Our Habitat 141⁰ partner the South East Natural Resource Management Board has brought in additional funding via their 'Bucks for Bush' program to contribute to extensive fencing costs required in this part of the landscape.



Degraded section of Kojjak Creek to be restored. A tributary of the Mosquito Creek.