

Restoration of eucalypt grassy woodland – effects of experimental interventions on ground layer vegetation

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Summary text for the table of contents

The removal of livestock grazing can improve the condition of grassland vegetation by allowing native plant growth and plant litter to accumulate. Experiments over a four year period show that growing conditions can be additionally improved by reducing kangaroo densities and providing additional fallen timber. However in the short-term, favourable seasonal conditions can be the most important factor driving plant growth and increasing apparent plant diversity, particularly after a period of drought.

Running title: Restoration of woodland understory

1 **Abstract**

2 We report on the effects of broad-scale restoration treatments on the ground layer of eucalypt
3 grassy woodland in south-eastern Australia. The experiment was conducted in two conservation
4 reserves from which livestock grazing had previously been removed. Changes in biomass, species
5 diversity, ground cover attributes and life-form were analysed over a four-year period in relation to
6 experimental interventions: i) reduced kangaroo density, ii) addition of coarse woody debris, and iii)
7 fire (a single burn). Reducing kangaroo density doubled total biomass in one reserve, but no effects
8 on exotic biomass, species counts or ground cover attributes were observed. Coarse woody debris
9 also promoted biomass, particularly exotic annual forbs, as well as plant diversity in one of the
10 reserves. The single burn reduced biomass but changed little else. Overall, we found the main driver
11 of change to be the favourable growth seasons which had followed a period of drought. This
12 resulted in biomass increasing by 67%, (mostly due to the growth of perennial native grasses) while
13 overall native species counts increased by 18%, and exotic species declined by 20% over the four
14 year observation period. Strategic management of grazing pressure, use of fire where biomass has
15 accumulated and placement of coarse woody debris in areas of persistent erosion will contribute to
16 improvements in soil and vegetation condition, and gains in biodiversity, in the future.

17

18

19 *Key words:* Box-gum woodland; temperate grassland; coarse woody debris; kangaroo; grazing;
20 grassland; Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve; Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve

21 Introduction

22 Removal of livestock has been considered a primary action in the restoration of post-production
23 grassy woodlands being managed for biodiversity conservation (Spooner *et al.* 2002). For some
24 organisms (e.g. beetles and small skinks), a reduction in grazing pressure has been associated with
25 increases in abundance and species richness in three or fewer years (Barton *et al.* 2011; Manning
26 2013). Vegetation responses over similar time frames can include an increase in the abundance of
27 grazing-sensitive grasses (McIvor *et al.* 2005) and regeneration of structural vegetation elements
28 such as shrubs and trees (Spooner *et al.* 2002). However, the floristic composition of perennial
29 grasslands may be quite inert to change after even five years (Milchunas and Lauenroth 1995) while
30 landscape-scale changes may take decades (Geddes *et al.* 2011).

31
32 While the recovery of ecosystems from human impacts is generally considered to be a long-term
33 proposition in low-productivity environments, there can be strong societal expectations of
34 significant, and positive short-term change (Reeves 1999). The stakes are high in the case of
35 eucalypt grassy woodlands, where depletion and modification of the ecosystem is great, and
36 investment in their restoration has been a spending priority for governments (e.g. Prober *et al.*
37 2001). As many formal restoration activities have a funded and monitored time frame of less than
38 five years (e.g. Spooner *et al.* 2002; Briggs *et al.* 2008), the question of what might realistically be
39 observed in the vegetation over these short time frames is an important one.

40
41 Trajectories of native species recovery may be influenced by prior land use and the legacy effects of
42 past disturbances (Lunt and Spooner 2005; Prober *et al.* 2013), nutrient enrichment (McIntyre 2008)
43 and weed invasions (Spooner and Briggs 2008). At some sites, degradation may be effectively
44 permanent, taking the form of degraded soil, persistent weeds and absent species (Prober *et al.*
45 2002; McIntyre 2011). Interventions aimed at initiating or speeding up recovery are an increasingly
46 important part of conservation practice. Some are widely adopted (e.g. erosion control, control of
47 exotic plants and animals), other are being explored e.g. the reintroduction of species and habitat
48 elements to increase diversity and restore missing ecosystem functions (McIntyre 2011; Shorthouse
49 *et al.* 2012). Broadly speaking, successful restoration of heavily grazed herbaceous understory
50 would be expected to result in i) sustained or increased native species diversity; ii) increased
51 dominance of native and reduced dominance of exotic species and iii) increased overall native
52 biomass and reduced bare ground.

53
54 The importance of disturbances in the management of plant and animal diversity in grassy
55 vegetation is an ongoing issue for conservation management. Livestock removal can moderate soil
56 degradation and relieve pressure from grazing-sensitive species. However, grazing can promote high
57 diversity (Trémont 1994), as the accumulation of perennial grass biomass in ungrazed swards has the
58 potential to reduce diversity of inter-tussock forbs and grasses (Trémont and McIntyre 1994).
59 Macropod populations may provide ongoing grazing pressure in the absence of livestock and fire can
60 provide a non-selective mode of biomass reduction. Burning is not independent of herbivore activity
61 as patchy fire can increase grazing pressure on recently burnt areas (Meers and Adams 2003). Small-
62 scale soil disturbances provided by digging fauna are also a potential factor in the maintenance of
63 plant diversity. The amount of bare ground at any point in time is the net result of total grazing,

64 trampling, digging and burning, but should sufficiently low to promote rainfall infiltration and
65 recycling of organic matter into the soil (McIntyre and Tongway 2005).

66

67 Here we report the four-year effects of two experimental interventions intended to accelerate
68 ecosystem recovery in eucalypt grassy woodland: supplementation of coarse woody debris and
69 reduction of total grazing pressure through management of kangaroo densities. We have applied
70 these treatments experimentally in two conservation reserves in south-eastern Australia as part of
71 the long-term 'Mulligans Flat – Goorooyarroo Woodland Experiment'
72 (www.mfgowoodlandexperiment.org.au; Manning *et al.* 2011). To date, both treatments have
73 produced increases in richness and abundance of beetles (Barton *et al.* 2011) and reptiles (Manning
74 *et al.* 2013). As ground-dwelling fauna are highly responsive to the state of the herbaceous ground
75 layer (McIntyre 2005; Dorrough *et al.* 2012) we predict that beetle and reptile effects reflect
76 vegetation responses to these experimental treatments. In addition, localised increases in surface
77 soil fertility have been reported next to logs in the coarse woody debris treatment after only two
78 years (Goldin and Hutchinson 2013). Logs provide heterogeneity in growing conditions for ground
79 layer vegetation with the potential to increase plant diversity but also the potential to favour exotic
80 species through enhanced fertility (Dorrough *et al.* 2006).

81

82 The objective of this paper is to assess, over a four-year period, the effect of the following on
83 ground layer vegetation (i.e. biomass, ground cover, life form, origin, perenniality, species counts) :

- 84 1) Seasonal climatic conditions.
- 85 2) A reduction in kangaroo density.
- 86 3) The addition of coarse woody debris (CWD) in the form of logs.
- 87 4) A single burning event five months prior to the commencement of sampling.
- 88 5) High and low tree and shrub densities.

89

90 Objectives 2-5 are addressed through the application of experimental treatments, with 2-4
91 representing experimental manipulations and 5 controlling for existing variation in density of trees
92 and shrubs within the reserves . The rationale for the treatments is summarized in Table 1.
93 Assessing the effects of seasonal climatic conditions (Objective 1) involves interpretation of the
94 overarching drivers of change in biomass and composition. This influences the expression of the
95 experimental treatments, as climatic variability is linked to population fluctuations and local
96 extinction risks (Jongejans *et al.* 2010). Being uncontrolled, seasonal conditions are confounded by
97 other management that are applied across the entire reserves (Table 1). Nonetheless, seasonal
98 conditions are important for the overall interpretation of change and of the experimental results.
99 We predict that the experimental manipulations (2-4) are likely to have only modest effects on the
100 ground layer vegetation over the four-year observation period, but that stronger effects will emerge
101 over the long-term.

102

103

104 **Methods**

105 *Study area*

106 Ninety-six experimental sites were established in 2007 in two nature reserves located on the
107 northern boundary of Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory, Australia. The reserves (Mulligans

108 Flat and Gorooyarroo) are within the coordinates 35° 9-13' S; 149° 9-12' E. They total 1,3623 ha
 109 and are joined along a boundary of 300-400 m. The experimental sites are in grassland, woodland
 110 and forest associated with *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, *Eucalyptus melliodora* and *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*.
 111 A full description of the study site, plant survey methods and the ground layer vegetation is given in
 112 McIntyre *et al.* (2010). The experimental treatments and design are described in detail in Manning *et al.*
 113 *et al.* (2011) and Shorthouse *et al.* (2012) and summarized below.

114 *Experimental treatments*

115 Each reserve has 48 experimental sites, 1 ha in size (200 x 50 metres). The two reserves were
 116 treated as separate experiments, with all the Mulligans Flat sites being within a fence designed for
 117 exotic predator exclusion for the future re-introduction of fauna. The treatments that had been in
 118 operation for the four years between vegetation sampling were:

- 119 1) Woody debris (fallen timber) augmentation (none; 20 tonnes.ha⁻¹ (dispersed); 20 tonnes.ha⁻¹
 120 (clumped); 40 tonnes.ha⁻¹ (both clumped and dispersed)). Logs were introduced to supplement the
 121 fallen timber that had been previously depleted by tree and firewood removal.
- 122 2) Reduction in kangaroo density, achieved through fencing and periodic herding out of animals
 123 that had breached the fenced exclusion areas. Fences were either wire netting stock fences with
 124 three additional wires to a height of 2.1 m or newly-constructed 1.8 m high predator-proof fencing.
- 125 3) Burning, which was applied to 24 sites in Gorooyarroo only. While a burning regime is planned,
 126 the first burn was in May 2011, five months before the second vegetation survey. Overall, fire
 127 intensity was low due to wet conditions. The intensity of the majority of plots was between 10 and
 128 40 kW/m. Three of the woodland plots had very damp fuel which was too wet to burn. The highest
 129 intensity recorded was 89.5 kW/m. Vegetation was not burned beyond the 1ha experimental sites.

130 *Experimental design*

131 The key stratifying units of this experiment were 'polygons' which were homogenous areas of
 132 vegetation structure, that had been previously surveyed and mapped by ACT government staff for
 133 management purposes. From this survey, four of vegetation structures were identified as
 134 combinations of high and low tree (LT, HT) and shrub structure (LS, HS). Shrubs included some
 135 *Acacia* spp. that formed small trees. In each reserve 12 'polygons' were selected randomly from a
 136 larger set of candidates, with four 1 hectare 'sites' per polygon (2 reserves x 12 polygons x 4 sites =
 137 96 sites). Fixed effects were factorial combinations of the treatments which occurred at either the
 138 polygon level or the site level, summarized in Table 2.

139 *Plant survey*

140 We surveyed the ground layer vegetation in both reserves using the same methods applied in 2007
 141 (reported in McIntyre *et al.* 2010) and again in 2011. We included all herbaceous species and woody
 142 plants < 0.5 m high (regardless of potential height). Vegetation in both surveys was sampled in late
 143 spring (12th Oct – 27th Nov. in 2007; 17th Oct. - 22nd Nov. in 2011). Thirty quadrats (0.5 x 0.5 m)
 144 were located systematically across each of the 96 sites (200 x 50m). We used point-based estimates
 145 of ground cover, one point in each of the four corners of the quadrats, giving a total of 120 points
 146 per site. At each point, we recorded the ground cover as: litter, litter depth, cryptogams, bare
 147 ground, rock, fallen log (>10 cm diameter, > 0.5 m long) or live plant basal area.

148

149 We used the BOTANAL method for estimating species abundance (t' Marnette and Haydock 1963,
 150 Tohill *et al.* 1992) which requires the total biomass to be estimated, and species to be ranked by

151 the relative amount of their biomass. Three observers were trained using a process of
 152 photographing, cutting and weighing a range of samples, with the photographs forming an ongoing
 153 reference during the field season. Consistent bias by individual observers was addressed by using
 154 calibration regressions of estimates following the approach of Tothill *et al.* (1992) on 24 quadrats in
 155 the fifth week of sampling. Values of R^2 ranged from 0.7 to 0.9. Total biomass was estimated for
 156 each quadrat, resulting in 30 estimates per site, 2880 estimates over all 96 sites.

157

158 To calculate species composition from the estimate of total biomass and species rankings in each
 159 quadrat, the proportional contribution (PR) was calculated using the following geometric series:

$$160 \quad PR = (1-k)*kR^{-1}$$

161 where R is the rank order, and k is a parameter. We used a $k=0.3$ (best match for empirical results,
 162 Scott 1986), which give % contributions of: Rank 1 = 70%, Rank 2 = 21%, Rank 3 = 6.3%, Rank 4 =
 163 1.9%, Rank 5 = 0.6%, Rank 6 = 0.2%. Ties were used if two species had similar biomass, in which
 164 case, the next rank was not filled. For ties, the two or three relevant tied ranks were added together
 165 and divided evenly. In this way abundance could be reported for each species in $kg \cdot ha^{-1}$. The top six
 166 species, ranked by biomass were recorded in each quadrat. This geometric series therefore
 167 indicates that species with $<0.2\%$ of the biomass in a quadrat were not recorded in the survey.

168

169 Species counts were the total number of species recorded at each 1 ha site i.e. those ranked 1-6 in
 170 all 30 quadrats. Note that species ranked seven or lower in a quadrat would not have been recorded
 171 as present in that quadrat, so the species counts are relative, not absolute. We acknowledge that
 172 this will exclude some rare species from the data set.

173

174 Estimated biomass was analysed grouping species into native and exotic components, and into
 175 seven life-forms (annual forb, annual graminoid, fern, perennial forb, geophyte, perennial
 176 graminoid, shrub), by adding the component species biomass values. Treatment effects were
 177 analysed only for the more abundant life-forms: exotic annual forbs and graminoids and native
 178 perennial forbs and graminoids. Nomenclature followed the Australian Plant Census
 179 (<http://www.cpbr.gov.au/chah/apc/about-APC.html>).

180

181 *Statistical analyses*

182 Our data had a multi-level structure involving variation between polygons, between sites within
 183 polygons, and between times within sites. As positive or negative change in response to the
 184 addition of CWD (and vegetation class) was of central interest in this study, we included analyses of
 185 change (from 2007 to 2011) in the response variables as well as treatment effects in 2011. We used
 186 cross-sectional linear mixed models, with random effects for polygon and site, to quantify and
 187 assess the effects of treatments, vegetation class and kangaroo grazing on the difference in species
 188 richness between 2007 and 2011; thus inferences pertain to a four year period, only (see Galway
 189 2006). Fixed effects were estimated by least squares and random effects by restricted maximum
 190 likelihood. Statistical significance of fixed effects was assessed by Wald statistics with an appropriate
 191 adjustment for degrees of freedom (Kenward and Roger 1997). The data from Mulligans Flat and
 192 Goorooyarroo were analysed separately due to differences in management history, vegetation,
 193 timing of treatments and co-variate availability (Manning *et al.* 2007; McIntyre *et al.* 2010; Manning
 194 *et al.* 2011).

195

196

197 **Results**198 *1) Seasonal conditions and overall changes between 2007 and 2011*

199 Rainfall patterns around the time of sampling were similar in both sampling periods (Table 3) with
 200 an initial dry start in September-October and a wet November. The growing season was very dry in
 201 the spring-summer preceding the 2007 sampling and extremely wet in the spring-summer preceding
 202 the 2011 sampling. These differences are evident in the biomass averages (Table 4). Total biomass
 203 increased overall by 67% over the four years. This increase was primarily in perennial, native
 204 species. Exotics increased by 15%, but their representation declined from 12 to 8% of the total
 205 (Fig. 1). Annuals increased by 67% but represented a steady 7% of total biomass (Table 4). Like
 206 biomass, litter depth increased dramatically overall (from 12 to 19 mm depth where litter present).
 207 However, overall changes in litter % cover, basal area and bare ground were slight (Table 5).

208

209 The life-form profile differed between native and exotic biomass components (Table 6). In both
 210 cases, perennial graminoids dominated, followed by perennial forbs. However, there were no exotic
 211 ferns or geophytes, instead, forbs were strongly represented in the exotic biomass. Forbs formed a
 212 very small component of the native biomass, but shrubs were more abundant and perennial
 213 graminoids were extremely dominant. There was a more even biomass distribution across the
 214 exotic life-forms. Most species diversity is associated with the perennial life-forms in natives and
 215 annual life-forms in exotics.

216

217 The greatest biomass increases between the two surveys were of native perennial graminoids and
 218 forbs (increases of 277 and 54 kg.ha⁻¹ respectively) and native annual graminoids (41 kg.ha⁻¹). There
 219 were only two species of annual native graminoids recorded and these both increased in biomass:
 220 *Schoenus apogon* (from 0.1 to 41 kg.ha⁻¹) and *Lachnagrostis filiformis* (from 0 to 0.4 kg.ha⁻¹) both are
 221 species of wet areas and were responding to the higher rainfall conditions. Exotic increases were
 222 smaller, with the greatest contribution from perennial graminoids and forbs (both increased by 10
 223 kg.ha⁻¹). The other three life-forms declined or stayed the same (Table 6). Details of species
 224 composition and biomass changes are given in Appendix 1.

225 Comparing the species lists for each of the 2007 and 2011 surveys, changes in composition was most
 226 apparent amongst exotic annuals (11 species lost, 10 gained) no evidence of change in native
 227 perennial grasses (no species lost or gained), and most gain in other native perennial life-forms (3
 228 lost, 14 gained).

229 *2) Effects of reduced kangaroo densities*

230 At Mulligans Flat the higher kangaroo densities more than halved the total biomass relative to the
 231 reduced grazing treatment after 4 years (1382 cf. 615 kg.ha⁻¹) ($p < 0.01$). These effects were also
 232 evident in the native, but not in the exotic component. At Goorooyarroo the high kangaroo density
 233 treatment did not reduce total, perennial, annual or native biomass. It did result in a significant
 234 difference in annual biomass with lower annual biomass under low kangaroo densities (Table 7), but
 235 the change in exotic biomass between 2007 and 2011 was not significantly different between high
 236 and low density. There were no effects of kangaroo density on species counts, live plant basal area,
 237 litter depth or bare ground in either reserve.

238

239 *3) The effects of the addition of coarse woody debris*

240 The treatment with the highest amount of woody debris (40 tonnes.ha⁻¹, both clumped and
241 dispersed) was associated with a total biomass of 1200 kg.ha⁻¹, significantly higher than the other
242 log treatments ($p < 0.05$) but only at Mulligans Flat. More specifically the presence of logs was
243 associated with significant increases in biomass of exotic annual forbs ($p < 0.05$). In contrast, exotic
244 annual graminoid biomass increased the most where kangaroo density was high and where there
245 were no logs ($p < 0.05$).

246
247 At Mulligans Flat, the overall decline of exotic species counts was 3 spp. (Table 8), but decline was
248 significantly less at the highest log density (one species) ($p < 0.05$) compared with the other three log
249 treatments (none, dispersed, clumped). A significant response was also found for total species
250 ($p < 0.05$). While the overall average total species counts at Mulligans Flat barely changed between
251 2007 and 2011 (Table 8) in the highest log density, total species increased by 4.7 spp. These results
252 suggest that at Mulligans Flat logs seemed to afford some protection to both native and exotic
253 species, while the logs treatment effects were not significant for the Gorooyarroo species counts
254 analyses.

255
256 There were no effects of logs at Mulligans Flat on live plant basal area, bare ground or litter. Nor
257 were there any effects of logs at Gorooyarroo on any variables, apart from an interaction with fire
258 discussed below.

259 *4) The effects of burning*

260 In Gorooyarroo, where the fire treatment was applied (5-6 months previously), the greatest effect
261 was on biomass. Burning reduced total biomass by 55% compared with unburnt sites; exotic, native,
262 annual and perennial components were similarly reduced (Table 7). Fire also reduced (725 *cf.* 291
263 kg.ha⁻¹) native perennial graminoids and exotic annual graminoids ($p < 0.001$) relative to unburnt
264 sites. At sites that had been burnt, litter cover and depth were reduced and bare ground % was
265 higher (data not shown).

266
267 There was an interaction between fire and vegetation structure in relation to bare ground. In 2011,
268 there was little difference between unburnt and burnt sites where trees and shrubs were high (14 *cf.*
269 16%). However the fire treatment (applied 5-6 months prior to sampling), significantly increased
270 bare ground where trees were dense and shrubs were sparse (0 to 24%) and in open areas (8 to
271 32%) ($p < 0.001$). These patterns were also evident in the changes in bare ground between 2007 and
272 2011. These effects may have been due to differences in litter type (grass vs. tree leaves) and
273 flammability at the time of burning, and the rate of accumulation of litter after burning. Where
274 shrubs were dense, bare ground was already highest (14%) and increased little (to 16%).

275
276 While an average of five native species were gained in Gorooyarroo between 2007 and 2011, there
277 were no effects of fire on the changes in species counts. There was an interaction of fire with logs
278 whereby some logs maintained species gains in the presence of fire, but reduced gains in the
279 absence of fire, the net effect being that logs appeared to make no difference to diversity gains
280 (Fig. 2).

281

282 The biomass responses to grazing and log addition that were observed at Mulligans Flat were not
 283 detected in the analysis of Gorooyarroo data. While it was possible that the similar responses to
 284 logs were obscured by the immediate and dramatic effects of fire on biomass, examination of the
 285 data suggested that, even in the absence of fire, there was little to indicate that low grazing, or the
 286 presence of logs promoted total biomass increases at Gorooyarroo (Table 9).

287 5) *The effects of tree and shrub density*

288 The presence of trees and shrubs did have some direct influence on the variables analysed. There
 289 was a greater increase in total species counts where tree (but not shrub) densities were high. This
 290 was observed in both Mulligans Flat ($p < 0.05$) and Gorooyarroo ($p < 0.05$). The results in relation to
 291 tree and shrub density need to be treated with caution, as there is evidence that vegetation
 292 structure is sometimes confounded with past land use and soil differences, which may be a more
 293 important influence than the presence of trees. For example, in Gorooyarroo the 'High tree, low
 294 shrub' (HTLS) sites were mostly *Phalaris*-dominated with elevated nutrient levels, which have more
 295 exotics than low fertility sites (see McIntyre *et al.* 2010). This interpretation is supported by the
 296 observation that exotic annual forbs persisted in significantly greater amounts at the Gorooyarroo
 297 the 'High tree, low shrub' sites, than at the other sites.

298 299 **Discussion**

300 *Biomass accumulation and the effects of reduced kangaroo densities*

301 The experimental observation period was characterized by three growing seasons with higher than
 302 average rainfall which resulted in a 67% overall increase in biomass between 2007 and 2011 (Tables
 303 3 & 4). The growth response was primarily that of native perennial grasses, while litter depth also
 304 increased. Both these changes are associated with an increase in the supply of organic matter to
 305 soils, increased microbial activity (Northup *et al.* 1999), nutrient recycling (Lindsay & Cunningham
 306 2009) and are indicative of a trajectory of improving soil condition (Northup *et al.* 2005) with
 307 potentially bottom-up cascading effects on other trophic levels (Mooney *et al.* 2010).

308
 309 The greatest accumulation of biomass was at Mulligans Flat, where experimentally reduced
 310 kangaroo densities enabled a total biomass increase of over $1300 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$, a doubling of the 2007
 311 average in the reserve four years previously. Perennial native grasses accounted for most of the
 312 accumulated biomass (Table 4, Fig. 1, Appendix 1). The effects of reducing kangaroo densities were
 313 less evident in Gorooyarroo, where the only detected effect was to reduce biomass of annual
 314 plants (Table 7). Greater difficulties were encountered in reducing kangaroo densities in
 315 Gorooyarroo than Mulligans Flat, and we attribute the differences in results between the two
 316 reserves, to differences in the effectiveness of the treatments.

317
 318 While the prevailing scientific view is that very high kangaroo grazing pressures can have adverse
 319 impacts on grassland condition (Neave and Tanton 1989; Cooper 2009; McIntyre *et al.* 2010),
 320 reducing kangaroo grazing pressure will prove difficult in these reserves, where natural predators
 321 are absent (Viggers and Hearn 2005). Nonetheless, we did observe an increase in the proportional
 322 representation of the functionally important large, grazing-sensitive tussock species (McIntyre and
 323 Lavorel 2001) with reduced grazing (*Themeda triandra*, *Aristida ramosa* and *Poa sieberiana*)
 324 suggesting improved grassland condition (Appendix 1). Given the low biomass starting point in 2007

325 (McIntyre *et al.* 2010), and the increases in abundance and richness of beetles (Barton *et al.* 2011)
326 and reptiles (Manning *et al.* 2012) to reduced grazing, it is evident that a step improvement in
327 ecosystem condition has occurred in the four-year period. This supports the hypothesis proposed by
328 Manning *et al.* (2013), that experimental treatments can be used to positive ecosystem effect over
329 relatively short time frames. While some ground-dwelling fauna are highly responsive to the state of
330 the herbaceous ground layer (McIntyre 2005; Dorrough *et al.* 2012) it may take longer for responses
331 to become evident among fauna that require compositional change, or particular changes to woody
332 habitat structure.

333

334 *Species changes and the role of coarse woody debris*

335 Over the four years, there were small increases in counts of native species and small reductions in
336 exotic species counts, suggesting improvement from a plant conservation perspective. This was not
337 anticipated, in fact the productive seasonal conditions might have indicated the opposite result,
338 owing to the more conservative growth strategies associated with native plants (Leishman *et al.*
339 2007). It is possible that continuing reductions of available phosphorus over the four years may
340 have contributed to a decline in exotic species (McIntyre 2008). Of the new species that were
341 recorded in 2011 most were exotic annuals and native perennial forbs and most of the 'lost' species
342 were exotic annuals. While greater changes in annual species presence might be expected owing to
343 their short life-span and dependence on seed banks, the high level of inertia in the dynamics of
344 perennial native plants is consistent with observations elsewhere (Morgan 2001). The appearance,
345 but not loss, of native forbs is likely to be mainly an increase in their apparency rather than
346 recolonization. Most native perennial forbs are hemicryptophytes which retreat to buried perennial
347 buds during unfavourable periods (McIntyre 1995; McIntyre *et al.* 1995).

348

349 The lowered kangaroo densities over four years at Mulligans Flat reduced grazing pressure, (as
350 evidenced by biomass increase) but had no detectable effect on plant diversity, as reflected in the
351 species counts. The long history of commercial livestock densities that preceded the experiment is
352 likely to have selected for a plant community robust to grazing, and to have eliminated some
353 grazing-sensitive species. A positive diversity response to reduced grazing would be less likely with
354 the loss of these species.

355

356 The addition of significant amounts of timber could be expected to have a number of positive effects
357 on vegetation amount and condition due to the provision of nutrients and organic material through
358 1) decomposition; 2) the interception of overland water flows leading to the accumulation of
359 moisture, litter and seeds; and 3) the provision of fertile, protected microsites for plant growth
360 (Tongway *et al.* 1989). Our analysis detected some vegetation differences associated with the
361 presence of added timber, but only in Mulligans Flat, where there was a greater increase in the
362 biomass of exotic annual forbs where woody debris was added, and where total biomass was
363 greater at sites having the most timber (40 tonne.ha⁻¹).

364

365 These findings were consistent with those of Goldin and Hutchinson (2013) who documented higher
366 levels of nutrients (including nitrates) and soil moisture levels adjacent to logs at Mulligans Flat.
367 Significantly higher levels of total biomass and biomass of exotic forbs were also measured
368 immediately adjacent to logs when compared to 0.8 m away (Goldin and Brookhouse 2014). Exotic
369 forbs have been shown to be associated with increased soil nitrates in this vegetation (McIntyre *et*

370 *al.* 2010). There was no evidence of coarse woody debris affording favourable microsites for native
371 perennial plants in the Goldin and Brookhouse (2014) study. However, this could be expected given
372 the observations were conducted in areas dominated by exotic species and grazing-tolerant native
373 species. In settings where grazing-sensitive native species are present, the protective influence of
374 logs could still potentially be detected.

375

376 The strategic placement of coarse woody debris in areas most affected by sheet erosion could serve
377 to maximize future improvement of soil recovery and minimize advantages to exotic species over
378 potential native colonizers. Assisted colonization of grazing-sensitive native species, by introducing
379 seeds adjacent to logs, could also be considered as a means of overcoming local seed limitations
380 and increasing diversity.

381

382 *Effects of burning*

383 While the more permanent effects of fire on vegetation are best assessed after a sustained regime
384 of burning (McIvor *et al.* 2005), the dramatic effect of fire on biomass was evident five months after
385 the first experimental burn. Burnt sites differed from heavily grazed treatments in that burning
386 reduced litter cover and depth, but was similar in having no effects on species counts. Effects varied
387 with tree and shrub densities which may have been due to differences in litter type (grass vs tree)
388 and flammability at the time of burning. To some extent, fire and grazing are interchangeable
389 disturbances; both are agents of biomass reduction. However, they differ in that fire is non-selective
390 and will prevent unpalatable species dominating, and while fire can result in the short-term release
391 of nutrients, frequent fire can lead to depletion of soil nutrients and carbon to the atmosphere and
392 promote soil crusting (Knicker 2007) which may not be desirable for eroded areas that are already
393 depleted of these elements. In contrast, grazing is more likely to result in organic matter
394 incorporation into the soil. The effects of this disturbances on the balance of native and exotic
395 species is a question of importance in plant conservation.

396

397 *Managing disturbances in a spatially variable environment*

398 In the future, the restoration management of the reserves must balance biomass accumulation with
399 the promotion of species diversity. Higher levels of biomass contribute to soil health and provide
400 habitat for fauna (McIntyre 2005; McIntyre and Tongway 2005) and prolonged accumulation of thick
401 grass litter may be necessary to achieve more optimal soil health where soils have been damaged.
402 However, the dominant native graminoids represented only 22% of the native plant taxa, while the
403 native forbs, which comprised 52% of the total taxa recorded, may be adversely affected by thick
404 litter accumulation in the longer term (Morgan 1998).

405

406 However, other features of the ground layer (where unburnt) were little changed, regardless of
407 grazing pressure e.g. proportion of bare ground, litter, cryptogams or plant basal area, suggesting
408 that in some areas the accumulated biomass has yet to be incorporated into the soil layers and bare
409 ground has yet to be replaced with litter cover or basal area. After four years, the effects of sheet
410 erosion are still evident in parts of both reserves (e. g. see Fig. 3) and as are bare eroded areas
411 between tussocks. The soils types occurring in the reserves (Burra, Campbell, Franklin and
412 Williamsdale) generally have hardsetting subsoils that are compact when dry with poor water
413 infiltration (Jenkins 2000). These eroded areas are not a favourable environment for seed
414 germination and plant establishment. The slow recovery of scalded areas is evident from the

415 proportion of quadrats with low biomass, which declined only slightly from 19% to 16% of quadrats
416 between 2007 and 2011 (Fig. 3).

417

418 In managing grazing and fire in the reserves, it will be important to take this heterogeneity into
419 account, and target biomass reduction to areas that are most productive and prone to dense litter
420 accumulation. These areas tend to be avoided by herbivores (Tohill 1971) but can be burnt.
421 Limited patch burning will present a potential interaction with grazing, as grazing pressure tends to
422 be concentrated on small recently burnt areas (Meers and Adams 2003). Thus management of
423 grazing pressure in conjunction with the use of fire at appropriately broad scales has the potential to
424 enhance plant diversity in the reserves. As discussed above, a complementary strategy for
425 accelerated restoration of eroded areas, is the placement of coarse woody debris on bare eroded
426 areas, particularly on slopes where capture of water, organic matter and nutrients would be most
427 beneficial.

428

429 **Summary**

430 We have shown that, over a period of four years, restoration treatments can initiate trajectories of
431 improvement in terms of biomass response to reduced grazing and to the addition of coarse woody
432 debris, thus setting the system for improvements in soil condition in areas affected by past
433 overgrazing. Increases in native plant dominance and diversity can be seen to be mainly driven by
434 the removal of livestock grazing and good growing conditions across both reserves, although there is
435 some evidence of diversity increases in the presence of coarse woody debris. Overall the effects of a
436 single burn were not considered to be of significance to plant diversity at this stage. Combining
437 grazing pressure management and the use of fire, and taking into account variations in vegetation
438 and soil condition will make future improvements in vegetation condition and diversity possible.
439 Similarly, strategic placement of coarse woody debris in areas of persistent erosion is recommended.

440

441 **Accessory publication**

442 Appendix 1 is available as an accessory publications on the Journal's website.

443

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450 were read by Saul Cunningham and Ben Macdonald.

451

452

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577 **Table 1. Restoration actions applied to two reserves (Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo) in south-**
 578 **eastern Australia and their anticipated effects on the ecosystems.**

579 a) actions applied as part of the experiment; and b) management applied across both reserves as
 580 part of established conservation practice.

581

a) Controlled experimental manipulations	Rationale for implementation
Kangaroo density maintained at a lower level than the wider landscape through semi-permeable enclosure.	To enable recovery from past livestock impacts. Increase in total biomass including grazing-sensitive species, improved soil condition, improved habitat quality for fauna.
Addition of coarse woody debris – eucalypt logs salvaged from urban areas, branches removed.	Past firewood removal had depleted this resource. Concentration of resources for plants and fauna through decomposition of wood, interception of water and nutrients. Provide sites protected from grazing and predators.
Controlled burning (one burn implemented 5 months prior to vegetation sampling)	To enhance plant diversity by reducing competitive effects of perennial grass.
b) Management actions applied to both reserves (no controls)	
Absence of livestock	Increase in total biomass including grazing-sensitive species, improved soil condition, improved habitat quality for fauna. Wild herbivores will still contribute to total grazing pressure.
Cessation of fertiliser applications	To reduce impacts of weeds and enable re-colonization of native plants.
Control of rabbits and hares (systematic) and kangaroos (episodic)	To reduce total grazing pressure.
Suppression of wildfire	To avoid complete burning of reserves and protect people and infrastructure.
Cessation of firewood removal	To restore nutrient recycling and other soil processes (see also 'addition of coarse woody debris').
Removal of proclaimed weeds (<i>Nasella tricotoma</i> , <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> , <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>)	To avoid competition with native species. There is a legislative requirement to control certain species proclaimed noxious.

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584 **Table 2.** Design of experiments in each of two nature reserves in the Australian Capital Territory
 585 summarizing experimental treatments associated with each. The 'vegetation structure' treatment
 586 was created through the identification of polygons of uniform structure in each reserve. The
 587 treatment levels represent the range of pre-existing structures in regard to tree (T) and shrub (S)
 588 density (H = high, L = low) combinations.
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Experimental unit	Number of units	Treatment	No. of levels	Levels
Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve				
Polygon	12	Vegetation structure	4	HTHS, LTHS, LTLS, HTLS
		Macropod density	2	Uncontrolled, Reduced densities
Site	48 (4 per polygon)	Coarse woody debris	4	Dispersed, Clumped, Clumped + dispersed
Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve				
Polygon	12	Vegetation structure	3	HTHS, LTLS, HTLS
		Macropod density	2	Uncontrolled, Reduced densities
Site	48 (4 per polygon)	Coarse woody debris	4	Dispersed, Clumped, Clumped + dispersed
		Fire	2	Burnt, Unburnt

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Table 3. Monthly rainfall (in mm) totals for the survey years 2007 and 2011.

Sampling was conducted in October and November of each year (indicated in bold). Monthly totals exceeding the monthly average are underlined. Data from Bureau of Meteorology (<http://www.bom.gov.au/>) 'Ainslie Tyson St' weather station no. 070000.

	2007	2011	Average
Jan	9	<u>62</u>	58
Feb	<u>72</u>	<u>131</u>	57
Mar	49	41	53
Apr	30	11	46
May	<u>48</u>	15	46
June	<u>85</u>	14	45
July	24	36	55
Aug	12	<u>57</u>	51
Sept	15	35	55
Oct	25	26	65
Nov	<u>111</u>	<u>121</u>	66
Dec	<u>134</u>	<u>93</u>	53
Total	613	643	643

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610 **Table 4. Biomass of annual and perennial ground layer vegetation components at Mulligans Flat**
 611 **(MF) and Goorooyarroo (GO) Nature Reserves.**

612 Estimates are of above-ground biomass of all herbaceous species, and woody plants < 0.5 m high
 613 (regardless of potential height). Data are from a total of 96 x 1 ha sites with n = 48 for each reserve,
 614 assessed in 2007 and 2011. Annuals as a percentage of total biomass is given in brackets.

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Biomass (kg.ha ⁻¹)	MF	MF	GO	GO	All sites	All sites
	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011
Perennial	566	1020	482	747	524	884
Annual	21 (4%)	72 (7%)	60 (11%)	63 (8%)	41 (7%)	68 (7%)
Total	592	1095	546	811	569	953

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618 **Table 5. Percentages of different ground cover attributes at Mulligans Flat (MF) and Gorooyarroo**
 619 **(GO) Nature Reserves.**

620 Data are from a total of 96 x 1 ha sites with n = 48 for each reserve. Note half the sites in
 621 Gorooyarroo were burnt 5-6 months prior to these measurements being taken, which influenced
 622 overall cover of bare ground and litter.

623

% Cover	MF	MF	GO	GO	All sites	All sites
	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011
Litter	61.6	62.3	70.3	62.8	66.0	62.6
Bare ground	16.3	14.1	10.4	16.4	13.3	15.2
Plant basal area	12.7	12.5	12.2	14.0	12.5	13.3
Cryptogam	7.8	10.2	4.1	4.2	6.0	7.2
Fallen log	1.2	0.6	1.6	0.9	1.4	0.7
Rock	0.3	0.3	1.4	1.7	0.8	1.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

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628 **Table 6. Representation of different life-forms in the ground layer vegetation in 2007 and 2011.**

629 Estimates are of above-ground biomass of all herbaceous species, and woody plants < 0.5 m high

630 (regardless of potential height). Data are from a total of 96 x 1 ha sites averaged over both reserves.

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Native biomass (kg.ha ⁻¹)	2007	2011	% of total in 2011
Annual forb	1.6	1.5	0.2%
Annual graminoid	0.1	42	5%
Fern	0.4	2.2	0.3%
Perennial forb	22	76	9%
Geophyte	3.1	1.9	0.2%
Perennial graminoid	446	723	83%
Shrub	23	29	3%
Total native	496	875	100%
Exotic biomass (kg.ha ⁻¹)	2007	2011	
Annual forb	23	11	15%
Annual graminoid	16	14	18%
Perennial forb	4.0	14	19%
Perennial graminoid	26	36	48%
Shrub	0.2	0.2	0.2%
Total exotic	69	75	100%

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635 **Table 7. Predicted means (adjusted for main effects) of average total, annual perennial and exotic**
 636 **biomass (kg.ha⁻¹) in Gorooyarroo under fire and kangaroo density treatments in 2011.**

637 Significance levels are for comparisons of pairs of means across high and low kangaroo density and
 638 burnt and unburnt treatments.

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Kangaroo density	High	Low	Observed significance level
Total	690	608	n.s.
Perennial	621	566	n.s.
Annual	55	31	p<0.05
Native	576	547	n.s.
Exotic	28	22	n.s.
Fire May 2011	Not burnt	Burnt	Observed significance level
Total	966	435	p<0.01
Perennial	899	391	p<0.001
Annual	54	32	p<0.05
Native	856	368	p<0.001
Exotic	31	20	n.s.

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642 **Table 8. Average number of native and exotic species recorded at 1 ha sites in the two reserves in**
 643 **2007 and 2011.**

644 Species counts are pooled from 30 x 0.25m² quadrats in which the top six ranked species were
 645 recorded. Percentages refer to proportion of all species that are exotic.

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	MF	MF	GO	GO	All sites	All sites
	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011
Native	25.3	28.7	22.9	28.1	24.1	28.4
Exotic	11.3 (30%)	8.2 (22%)	12.3 (35%)	10.8 (28%)	11.8 (33%)	9.5 (25%)
All species	36.6	36.9	35.2	38.9	35.9	37.9

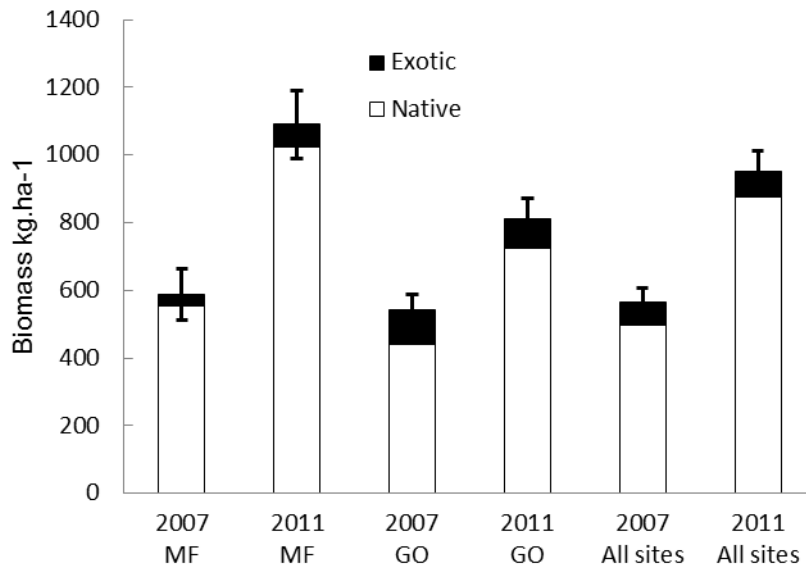
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650 **Table 9. Average total biomass (kg.ha⁻¹) in 2011 at 48 sites at Goorooyaroo in of grazing, log and**
 651 **fire treatments.**
 652 Means are adjusted for main effects and one-way interactions. There were no significant differences
 653 between the means.
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Fire	Kangaroo density	No logs	Dispersed	Clumped	Clumped and dispersed
Burnt	High	567	569	404	467
Burnt	Low	541	284	500	281
Unburnt	High	1125	897	898	1053
Unburnt	Low	1059	807	1282	820

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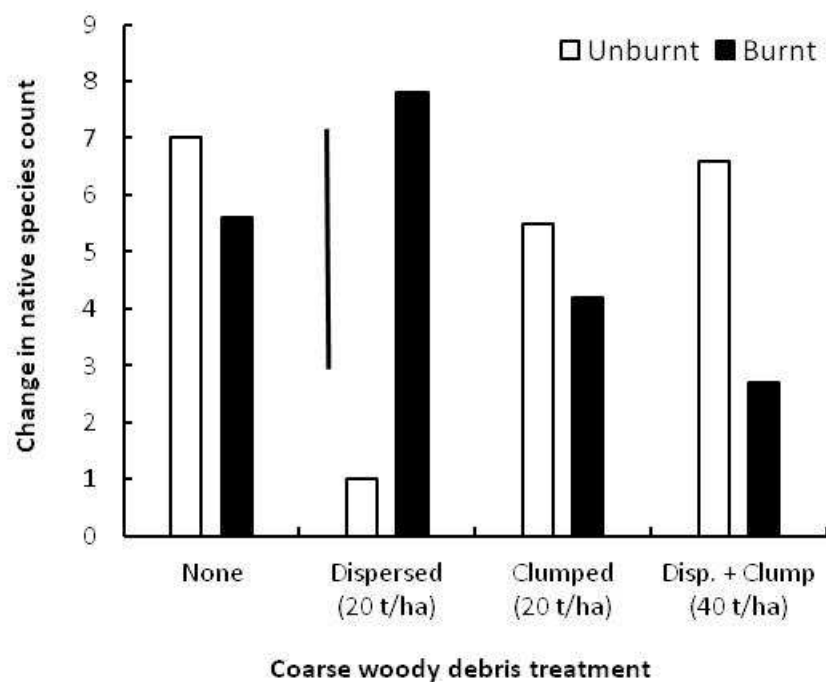
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665 **Fig. 1.** Biomass of native and exotic ground layer vegetation components at Mulligans Flat (MF)(n=
666 48) and Goorooyarroo (GO) Nature Reserves. Estimates are of above-ground biomass of all
667 herbaceous species, and woody plants < 0.5 m high (regardless of potential height). Data are from a
668 total of 96 x 1 ha sites with n = 48 for each reserve, assessed in 2007 and 2011. Biomass was
669 assessed from 30 x 0.25m² quadrats at each site. Bars are standard errors of total biomass.

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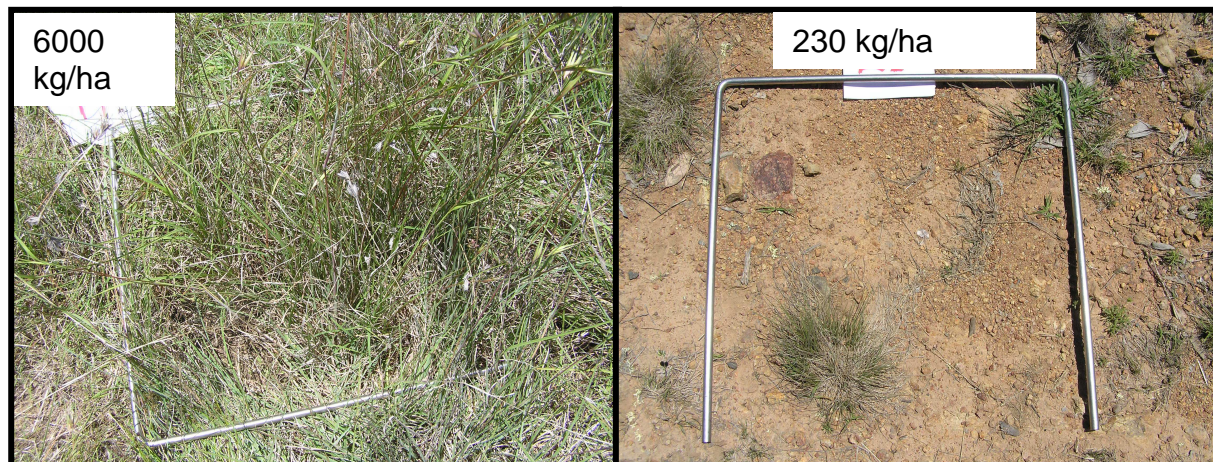
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677 **Fig. 2.** Differences in native species count between 2007 and 2011 at Goorooyarroo, showing
 678 interaction between coarse woody debris treatments and fire. Bar represents LSD at (p<0.05).

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Fig. 3. Management of biomass in the reserves will be necessary to maintain diversity of herbaceous plants and improve soil function. Biomass control would be desirable for some of the areas of highest productivity (left) while eroded areas (right) indicate a need for biomass accumulation. In the 2007 survey 19% of quadrats were estimated to have $\leq 230 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ biomass while in 2011 the proportion was 16% of (estimates from unburnt sites only, $n = 2250$ quadrats).

Accessory Publication

Appendix 1. Average biomass (kg.ha⁻¹) of species within different life forms from Mulligans Flat (MF) and Goorooyarroo Nature Reserves (GO) in 2007 and 2011.

Species are listed in order of descending total biomass within their groups. Names follow the Australian Plant Census (<http://www.cpbr.gov.au/chah/apc/about-APC.html>).

	2007 MF	2011 MF	2007 GO	2011 GO	2007 All sites	2011 All sites	All sites both dates
Native annual forbs (all species)							
<i>Triptilodiscus pygmaeus</i>	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.6
<i>Isoetopsis graminifolia</i>	0.0	1.5	0	0	0.0	0.8	0.4
<i>Crassula sieberiana</i>	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	0.2	0.03	0.2	0.1	0.2	0	0.1
<i>Erodium crinitum</i>	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Euchiton sphaericus</i>	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Ranunculus sessiliflorus</i>	0.3	0.0	0.0	0	0.1	0	0.1
<i>Centipeda</i> sp.	0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
<i>Cotula australis</i>	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Stuartina muelleri</i>	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
<i>Sebaea ovata</i>	0	0	0	0.01	0	0.01	0
Native annual graminoid (all species)							
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	0.1	50.3	0.2	32.2	0.1	41.2	20.7
<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>	0	0	0	0.7	0	0.4	0.2
Native fern (all species)							
<i>Cheilanthes</i> spp.	0.2	1.1	0	3.2	0.1	2.2	1.1
<i>Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia</i>	0.1	0	0.5	0	0.3	0	0.1
<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0
Native perennial forb (species with overall biomass >0.3 kg.ha⁻¹)							
<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>	1.2	19.7	0.2	15.2	0.7	17.5	9.1
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	3.6	19.4	1.1	9.8	2.4	14.6	8.5
<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i>	3.3	14.4	1.0	4.1	2.1	9.2	5.7
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	2.9	4.4	0.9	2.4	1.9	3.4	2.7
<i>Acaena ovina</i>	2.4	1.2	1.9	4.7	2.1	2.9	2.5
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i>	1.7	1.7	2.5	3.4	2.1	2.6	2.3
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	1.0	6.7	0.1	1.2	0.6	4.0	2.3
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	0.8	0.7	2.2	4.3	1.5	2.5	2.0
<i>Euchiton japonicus</i>	0	6.7	0	1.1	0	3.9	2.0
<i>Solenogyne dominii</i>	2.6	1.8	1.0	0.3	1.8	1.0	1.4
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> sp.	0.4	1.3	0.6	2.2	0.5	1.7	1.1
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	1.5	1.5	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.0
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	0.4	0.3	0.5	2.0	0.4	1.1	0.8
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	0.2	0.1	0.8	1.9	0.5	1.0	0.7
<i>Vittadinia gracilis</i>	0.1	2.2	0	0.3	0	1.3	0.6
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.6
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.0	0.6

<i>Plantago varia</i>	0	0	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.6
<i>Myriophyllum</i> sp.	0	1.9	0	0	0	0.9	0.5
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.4
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	0.5	0.8	0.1	0	0.3	0.4	0.4
<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>	0	1.3	0	0	0	0.7	0.3
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	0	0	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Native geophyte (all species)							
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	2.3	0.2	2.5	2.1	2.4	1.2	1.8
<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	0.1	0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2
<i>Arthropodium</i> spp.	0	0.5	0.1	0	0	0.2	0.1
<i>Arthropodium minus</i>	0.2	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	0.3	0.1	0	0	0.2	0	0.1
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	0.2	0	0.1	0	0.2	0	0.1
<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	0.2	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.1
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.1	0.1
<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Orchidaceae	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Thelymitra</i> spp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native perennial graminoid (all species)							
<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.	97.3	213.1	124.8	180.7	111.1	196.9	154.0
<i>Joycea pallida</i>	240.5	182.6	45.3	19.2	142.9	100.9	121.9
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	62.6	251.3	38.5	87.4	50.6	169.4	110
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	28.5	58.0	41.7	28.7	35.1	43.3	39.2
<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>	7.1	35.5	27.7	76.1	17.4	55.8	36.6
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	0.2	2.6	34.1	56.5	17.2	29.5	23.4
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	18.1	19.4	21.7	20.5	19.9	20	19.9
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	5.1	12.9	23.8	35.6	14.4	24.2	19.3
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	6.5	21.9	7.5	13.3	7.0	17.6	12.3
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	4.7	11.2	4.2	23.4	4.4	17.3	10.9
<i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i>	0.1	0.3	13.4	29.2	6.7	14.8	10.8
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	4.9	2.8	15.7	5.7	10.3	4.2	7.3
<i>Panicum effusum</i>	2.4	10	2.7	13.7	2.5	11.8	7.2
<i>Eragrostis brownii</i>	0.1	5.4	0	6.7	0.1	6.1	3.1
<i>Juncus</i> subgenus <i>Genuini</i>	4.0	3.1	1.9	3.2	2.9	3.1	3.0
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	1.2	2.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.1	1.6
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	1.3	3.8	0	1.4	0.6	2.6	1.6
<i>Carex inversa</i>	0	2.2	0.5	0.7	0.2	1.4	0.8
<i>Enneapogon nigricans</i>	1.8	0	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.6
<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	0	0.4	0.1	1.8	0	1.1	0.6
<i>Dichelachne</i> spp.	0	1.6	0	0.1	0	0.9	0.4
<i>Carex</i> spp.	0.3	0.1	0.3	0	0.3	0.1	0.2
<i>Luzula</i> spp.	0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.1	0.1
<i>Dichelachne rara</i>	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native shrub (all species)							
<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>	13.7	16.0	4.7	5.6	9.2	10.8	10
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	10.1	6.6	3.7	4.3	6.9	5.5	6.2
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	1.0	5.4	1.0	5.6	1.0	5.5	3.3
<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i>	6.3	1.5	0	0.2	3.1	0.8	2.0
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	0.3	2.6	0	0	0.1	1.3	0.7
<i>Pultenaea procumbens</i>	0.1	2.1	0	0	0.1	1.1	0.6
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	0	1.2	0.1	0.7	0.1	1.0	0.5
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	1.8	0.1	0	0	0.9	0	0.5

<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
<i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i>	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	0.3	0.1	0	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.3
<i>Hibbertia</i> sp.	0	0	0	1.1	0	0.6	0.3
<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>	0	0.8	0	0	0	0.4	0.2
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	0.1	0.3	0.3	0	0.2	0.2	0.2
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.2	0.1
<i>Acacia gunni</i>	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.1	0.1
<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.1	0
<i>Hovea heterophylla</i>	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0	0
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exotic annual forb (species with overall biomass >0.3 kg.ha-1)							
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	4.3	2.9	16.6	3.8	10.5	3.3	6.9
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	2.2	0.5	2.0	3.2	2.1	1.8	2.0
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	0.6	0	6.3	0.4	3.5	0.2	1.8
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	0	5.1	0	0.5	0	2.8	1.4
<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	1.4	0	1.6	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.8
<i>Trifolium glomeratum</i>	1.0	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.7
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4
<i>Conyza</i> sp.	0	0.2	0	1.2	0	0.7	0.4
<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	0	1.0	0	0.1	0	0.5	0.3
Exotic annual graminoid (species with overall biomass >0.3 kg.ha-1)							
<i>Lolium</i> spp.	2.1	1.5	18.2	4.6	10.2	3.1	6.6
<i>Bromus</i>							
<i>hordeaceus/molliformis</i>	0.3	4.1	3.4	5.6	1.9	4.9	3.4
<i>Vulpia</i> spp.	1.1	1.1	1.0	4.2	1.1	2.6	1.8
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	0.3	0.7	2.1	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.2
<i>Aira</i> spp.	0.9	0.2	0.6	0	0.8	0.1	0.5
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	0	0	1.2	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.4
<i>Briza maxima</i>	0.3	0.9	0.1	0	0.2	0.5	0.3
Exotic perennial forb (species with overall biomass >0.3 kg.ha-1)							
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	2.3	4.1	2.5	9.3	2.4	6.7	4.6
<i>Acetosella vulgaris</i>	1.1	1.2	0.6	7.0	0.8	4.1	2.5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	0	1.8	0	2.5	0	2.2	1.1
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	0	0	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3
Exotic geophyte (all species)							
<i>Romulea rosea</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exotic perennial graminoid (all species)							
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	11.2	35.2	36.5	28.8	23.8	32.0	27.9
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	0	3.0	0	4.5	0	3.8	1.9
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	0.7	0.1	2.8	0.3	1.8	0.2	1.0
<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.3
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0
Exotic shrub (all species)							
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	0.2	0.3	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.2
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0