

MVG 17—OTHER SHRUBLANDS

- Dominated by a broad range of shrub species that may include mixed species communities and mosaics of several communities. They do not fit well in other MVGs.
- Dominated by a range of species from genera including *Allocasuarina*, *Banksia*, *Bursaria*, *Dodonaea*, *Eremophila*, *Grevillea*, *Kunzea*, *Leucopogon*, *Muehlenbeckia*, *Persoonia*, *Thrytomene*, *Neofabricia*, *Nitraria* and *Melaleuca*.
- Density of the overstorey affects the type of understorey that occurs. The composition of the understorey, especially in the semi-arid tones, is also affected markedly by the quantity and seasonal distribution of rainfall.



Photo: M. Fagg

Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii (lignum) shrubland (centre and right of photo), Coopers Creek, Nappa Merrie Station, Qld

MVG 17—OTHER SHRUBLANDS

Facts and figures

Major Vegetation Group	MVG 17—Other Shrublands
Major Vegetation Subgroups (number of NVIS descriptions)	Other shrublands (420) Melaleuca shrublands and open shrublands (133) Lignum shrublands and wetlands (27)
Typical NVIS structural formations	Shrubland (tall, mid, low) Open shrubland (tall, mid, low) Sparse shrubland (tall, mid, low)
Number of IBRA regions	66
Most extensive in IBRA region	Est. pre-1750 and present: Muchison (WA)
Estimated pre-1750 extent (km²)	157 530
Present extent (km²)	123 464
Area protected (km²)	23 136



Photo: M. Fagg

Atalaya hemiglauca (whitewood), *Eremophila freelingii* (rock fuchsia bush), *Scaevola spicata*, *Cassia sturtii*, *Sida* spp., *Acacia tetragonophylla*, near Tibooburra, NSW

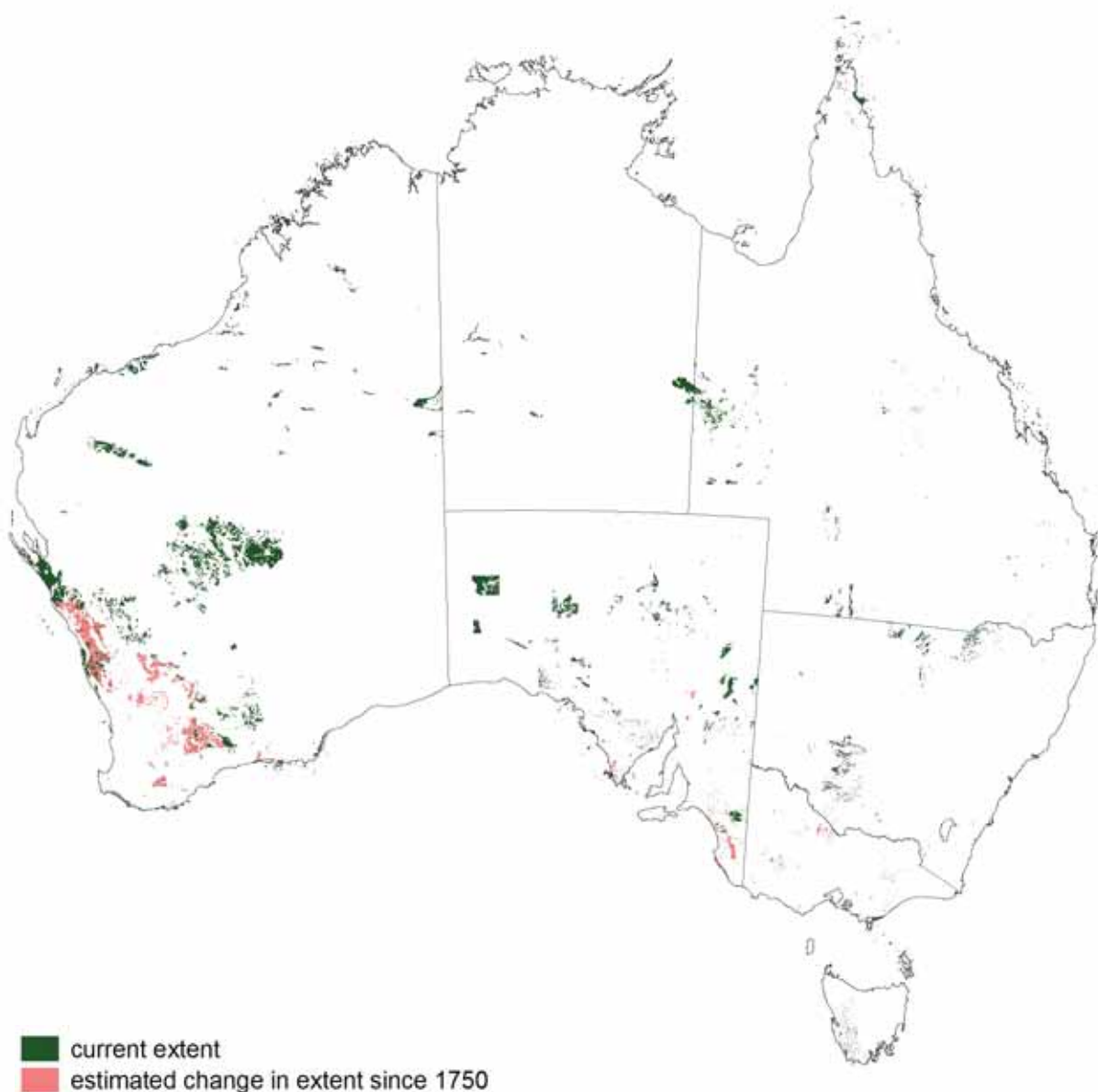
MVG 17—OTHER SHRUBLANDS

Geography

- Occur mainly in semi-arid and arid regions of Australia with some in the temperate climates of Tasmania and Victoria.
- Usually occur in low undulating inland areas on a variety of soils.

Change

- Approximately 22% of the estimated pre-1750 extent cleared accounting for 3.4% of total clearing in Australia mainly as a result of pastoral activities.
- Approximately 34 000 km² cleared since European settlement.
- Issues relate to total grazing pressure, clearing in some cases and fire regimes. Some of these shrublands have been protected in conservation areas.
- Threats include regular or intense wildfires and grazing pressure.



MVG 17—OTHER SHRUBLANDS

Tenure

Other Shrublands occur largely on leasehold land and protected areas.

New South Wales:	leasehold and freehold land
Northern Territory:	leasehold and freehold land
Queensland:	leasehold land, freehold land, protected areas, reserved crown land
South Australia:	protected areas, leasehold and freehold land
Tasmania:	leasehold land, protected areas, some other crown land, little scattered freehold land
Victoria:	protected areas
Western Australia:	protected areas, leasehold and freehold land, other crown land

Key values

- Biodiversity including a large variety of species within the plant communities, particularly after seasonal or cyclonic rains.
- Remnant populations of a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Key values are mainly associated with biodiversity values, the restricted ecological communities and the protection of endangered species. These shrublands are home to a wide range of birds and mammals, including some rare and endangered species (e.g. the dense and diverse shrublands near Hyden and Southern Cross in Western Australia).

Management considerations

- Feral animal control.
- Total grazing pressure management.
- Preventing further fragmentation of remnant of native vegetation.
- Maintenance of appropriate fire regimes.
- Weed control including addressing sustainable pasture management issues (e.g. buffel grass versus native perennial grasses).

There are inherent management requirements associated with protecting the range of values that exist for Other Shrublands. As with other rangeland areas there are public policy issues of stewardship and land capability to support use, that need to be addressed especially on leasehold lands. Ongoing investment in development of rangelands monitoring systems remains a priority and will provide increased opportunities for efficiencies in pastoral management and nature conservation investments within this MVG.

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

MVG 17—OTHER SHRUBLANDS

Data sources

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 6.1.

Land Tenure in Australia's Rangelands (1955 to 2000), National Land and Water Resources Audit.

National Vegetation Information System, Version 3.0.

1996/97 Land Use of Australia, Version 2.

Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database—CAPAD 2004—Terrestrial.

Notes

- Additional areas have been identified in Western Australia since NVIS 1, based on improved data.
- See the [Introduction to the MVG fact sheets](#) for further background on this series.



Photo: M. Fagg

Acacia aneura (mulga), *Eremophila bowmanii* (silver turkeybush), near Yenloora, Qld