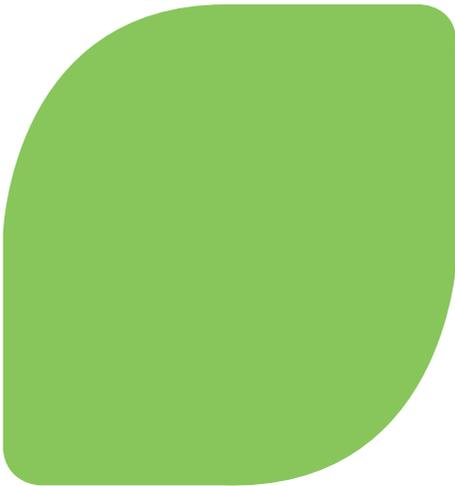




Black Box seed pods

Coolibah-Black Box Woodland in the Western region



Coolibah trees

The Coolibah-Black Box Woodland occurs on level floodplains in the Western region, mainly following river channels such as the Darling River.

Beyond the Western region, the Coolibah-Black Box Woodland is situated within the upper reaches of the Murray-Darling Basin and southern part of the Fitzroy River system.

The Coolibah-Black Box Woodland is distributed from central western New South Wales to central northern Queensland.

The Coolibah-Black Box Woodland is an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) which means it is at risk of becoming extinct unless threats affecting this community are managed and reduced.

The Coolibah-Black Box Woodland EEC is a group of native plants, animals and other organisms that interact to create a unique habitat.

Largely influenced by environmental factors such as soil type, landscape and water availability, the woodland occurs on deep alluvial clay and silt soils which are periodically inundated by overbank flows and which may remain waterlogged for extended periods.

In its mature state, Coolibah-Black Box Woodland has an open structure with widely-scattered trees and a variable cover of understory shrubs and grassy ground layer. In its regenerative phase, dense stands of saplings and limited understory and ground layer may develop. *Eucalyptus coolabah* is the most frequently occurring tree species.

How to identify Coolibah and Black Box

Coolibah (*Eucalyptus coolabah*)

- Coolibah is a medium sized tree to 15 metres tall, often with knarled spreading branches.
- It is distinguished by its bluish foliage, box bark on the trunk and larger branches, and clean whitish bark on the smaller branches.
- Trees along the drainage lines in the far west of NSW are often short and twisted but in areas receiving regular inundation, trees are taller and more shapely.
- The mature fruit has three to four triangular-shaped, protruding valves.
- Coolibah occurs on heavy grey or sandy alluvial soils subject to inundation.

Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*)

- Black Box is a medium sized tree 10-20 metres tall with a large spreading crown and drooping branches.
- It is distinguished by its hard, dark somewhat furrowed box bark which persists to the smallest branches.
- The mature fruit is the shape of a half circle with the valves enclosed.
- Black Box is one of the most common species in the region.

Traditional use

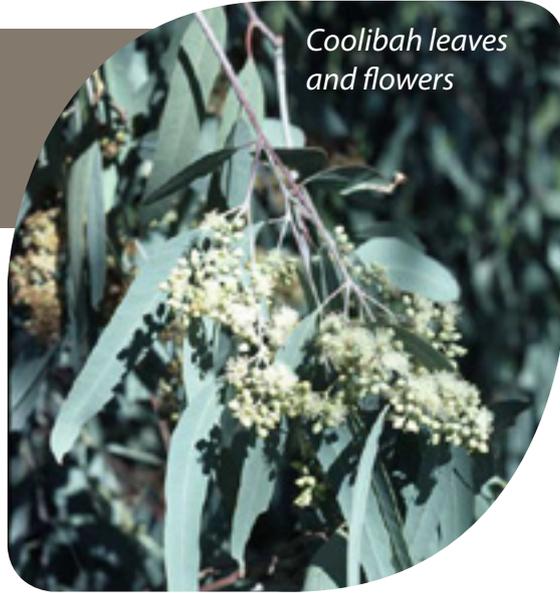
Coolibah was used as fish poison and to tan hides by Indigenous Australians.

The inner bark was used for snake bites, sore throat, headaches and fever.

The timber was used to build shelters and water used from the roots.



*Coolibah leaves
and flowers*



The importance of woodland protection

Why is it important to protect the condition of Coolibah-Black Box Woodland?

- Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands are ecologically important for providing habitat and other resources for a significant number of threatened flora and fauna species in the region, including 24 threatened bird species, nine threatened mammal species, six threatened reptile species and 12 threatened flora species.
- Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands and associated wetlands can provide valuable grazing land for domestic stock and can be used as short-term drought fodder refuges.
- Healthy grasses and shrubs found amongst Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands provide valuable feed for managed grazing and production.
- Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands form important stabilizing vegetation around wetlands. They help with prevention and management of erosion.

Coolibah tree



Riparian

Alluvial flats

Wetlands



Tips for good management

Recommendations for good management:

- Retain all trees, especially those with hollows.
- Retain grasslands, riparian vegetation and understorey shrubs, including all stages of development.
- Retain fallen logs as fauna habitat.
- Adopt selective and rotational grazing practices and avoid grazing when ground layer plants are flowering and setting seed (usually spring to mid-summer).
- Reduce intensity or exclude grazing in wetlands and woodlands to increase competition of native plants over exotics and allow regeneration of fauna habitat.
- Create or restore wildlife corridors and linkages.
- Plant trees and other perennial vegetation or allow natural recruitment of the existing vegetation.
- Allow natural flooding of the woodland.
- Control weeds.

Western Local Land Services is working with landholders across the region to improve the condition of Coolibah-Black Box Woodland EEC; projects include weed control, soil conservation works, education and training.

For further information contact your nearest Local Land Services office

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