

# Your patch in the landscape

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The landscapes of the Wimmera Mallee are highly fragmented, with remnant patches isolated in a mosaic of cropped and grazed paddocks. The native vegetation and fauna that define these remnants are vulnerable because of this isolation, especially in the face of a changing climate.

The best action to ensure native species survival is to improve landscape connectivity.

Connectivity within the landscape means different things for different species– but most importantly it allows for movement of resources between patches and migration of native fauna.

Generous corridors of native vegetation help native fauna avoid open country. Maintaining trees in paddocks will help other native fauna like bats as they can roost in open areas.

Large intact remnants are highly valued but small remnants and paddock trees are important too!

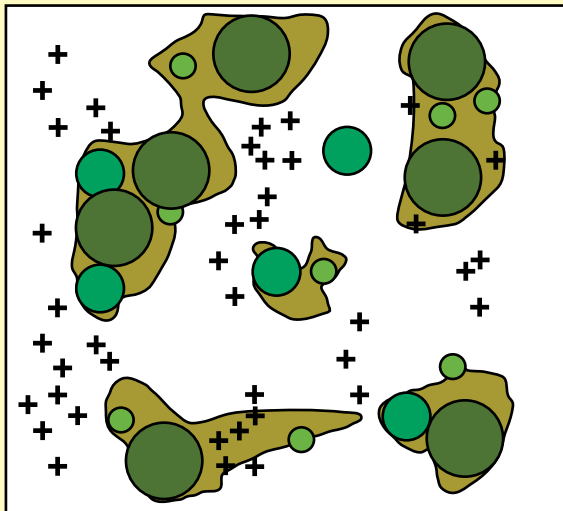
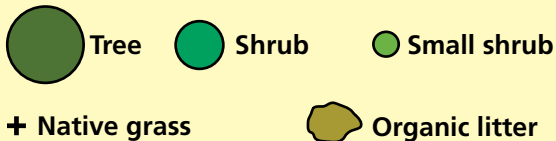


**Fragmented** vegetation was once continuous but after intensive clearing patches have become small **isolated** islands.



# An aerial view of your patch

***Open woodlands are naturally 'patchy', consisting of islands of trees and litter and open areas with grasses, mosses and lichens.***



Open areas within the patch use relatively little water and help increase the amount of effective rainfall available to support the patches of trees.

The spaces in between trees and shrubs are just as important as the dominant plants themselves.

Be careful if planting additional trees into natural canopy gaps, there may not be enough resources to go around!