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# Semi-arid Rangelands used for Wool Production

Produced for the CRC for Premium Quality Wool undergraduate program by;  
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# Semi-arid Rangelands for Wool Production

- Characterised by:
  - rainfall: low, unevenly distributed, unreliable
  - soil moisture and low soil fertility: the “driving” variables
  - a wide range of vegetation species and communities
- Wool-growing enterprises in rangelands:
  - semi-natural ecosystems
    - mainly native pasture species (but some exceptions)
    - domestic livestock and native fauna
  - management must be “ecological”:
    - to modify rather than control:
    - fertilisers, introduced exotic species: low chance of success
    - **grazing and fire management: main management options**

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# Distribution of Mitchell grasslands

- open tussock grassland, dominated by perennial Mitchell grass
- annual and perennial, grass and forbs

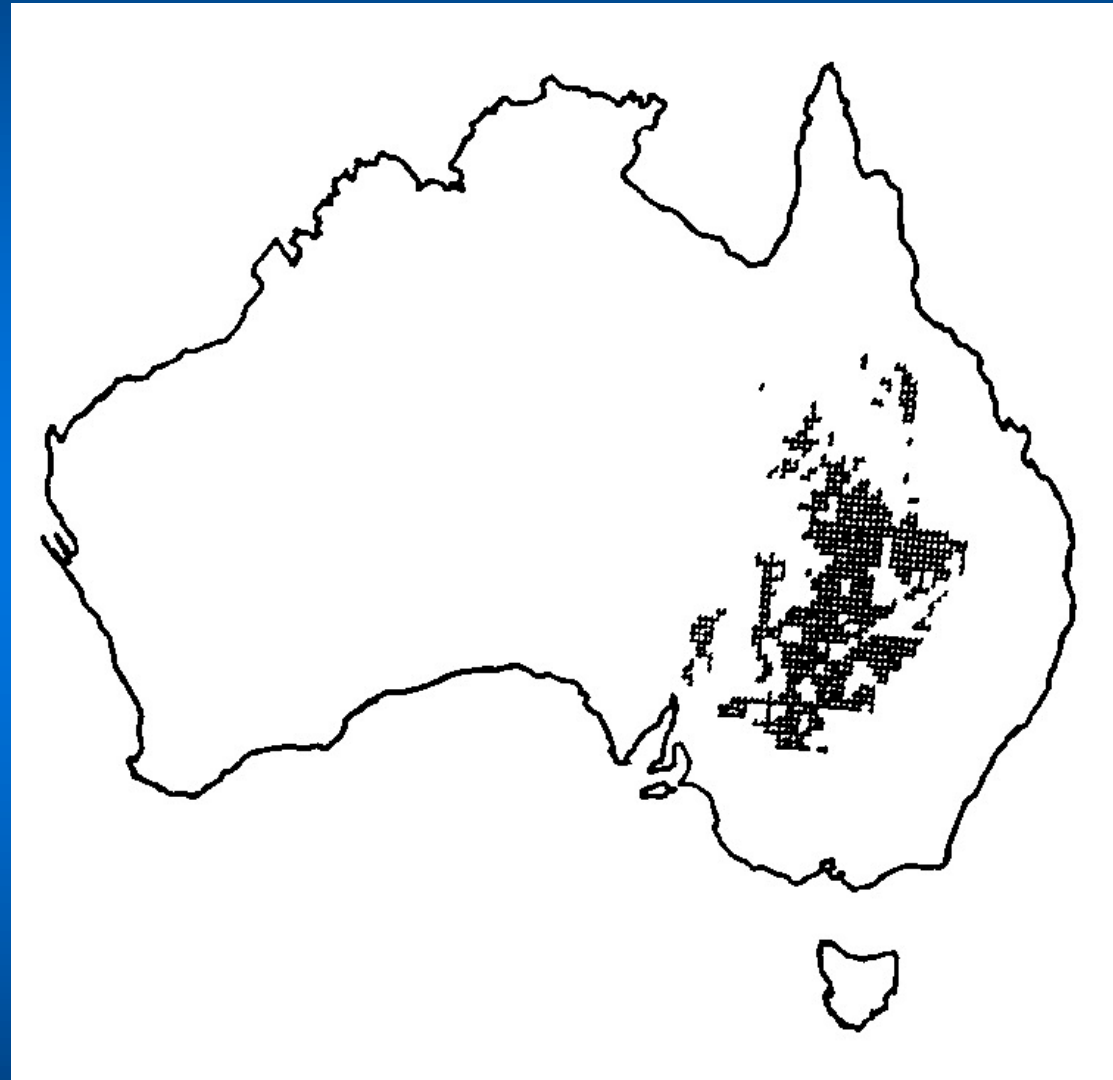


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# Distribution of semi-arid woodlands

- open woodland of medium-small trees
- shrub layer
- ephemeral and perennial, grasses and forbs

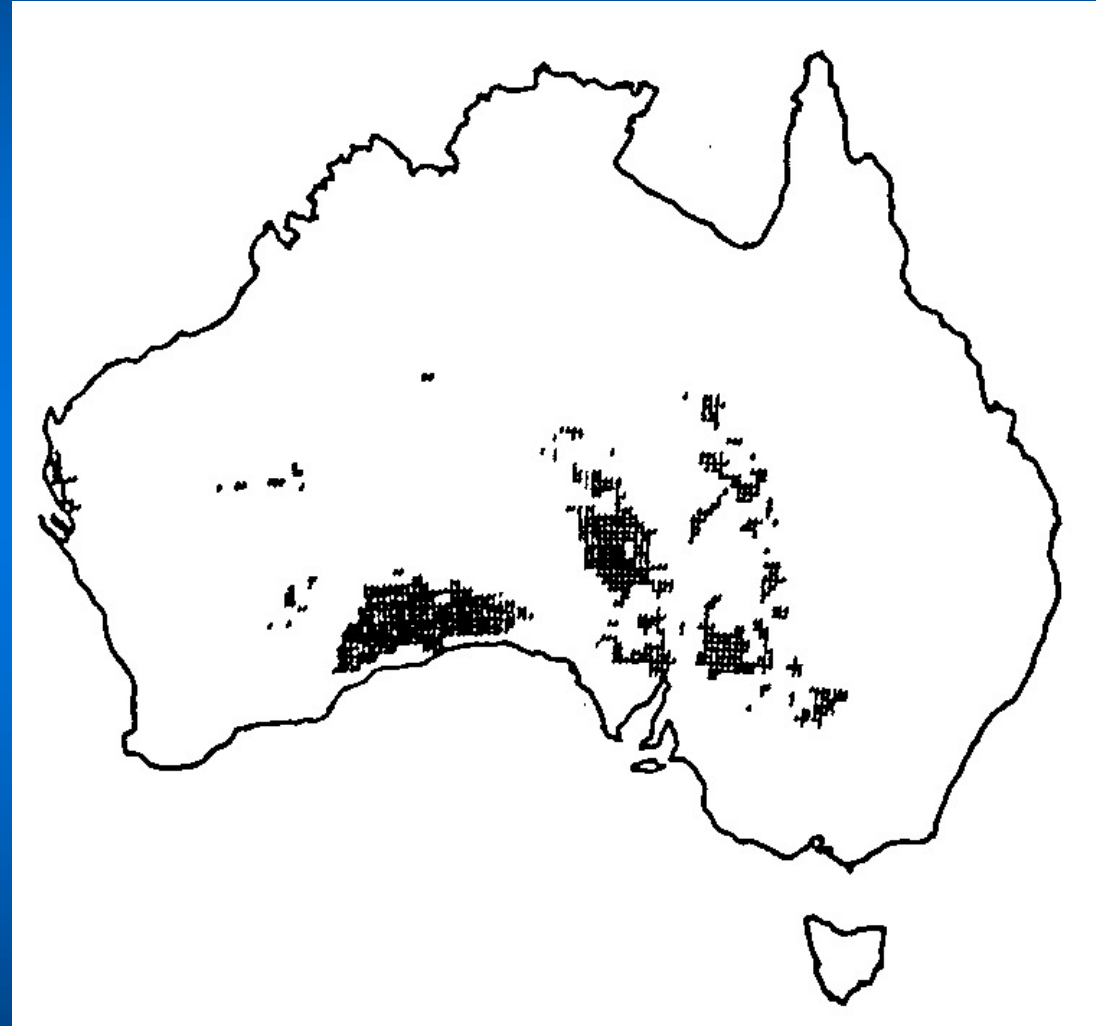


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# Distribution of chenopod shrublands

- low shrubs, mainly saltbush and bluebush
- diverse annual, ephemeral understory
- small component of perennial grasses



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Source: Graetz and Wilson (1984)





# Distribution of Mallee

- dominated by mallee eucalypts
- highly variable understory
- ephemeral and perennial, grass and forbs
- chenopods and other shrubs



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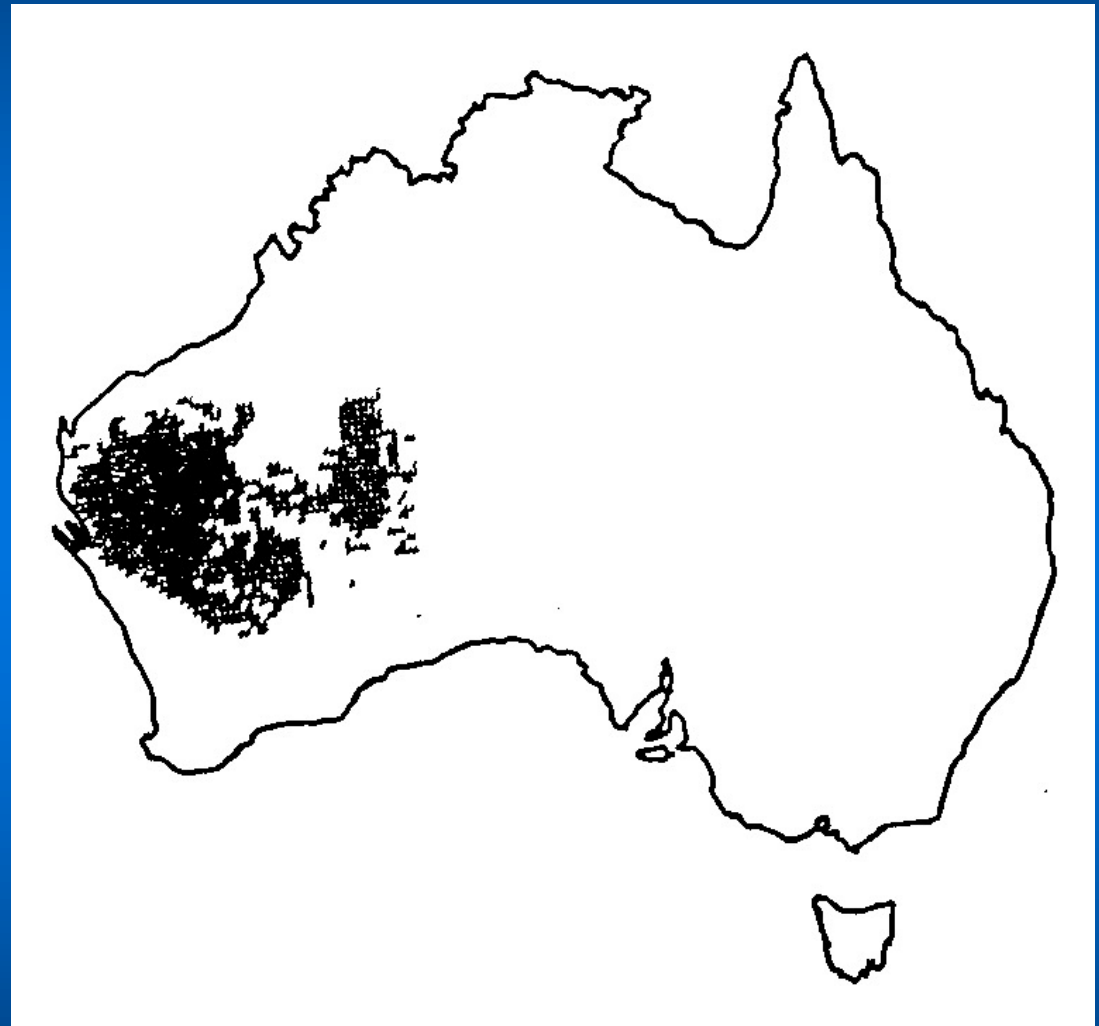
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# Distribution of arid mulga woodlands

- mulga shrubs
- annual and perennial, chenopods or spinifex shrub layer
- ephemeral and perennial, grasses and forbs



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