



**Restoration Decade
Alliance**

Australian restoration organisations
supporting the
UN Decade on Ecosystem
Restoration

Identifying priority degraded areas for Australia's GBF Target 2

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Point 1. Prioritisation must be systematic (not a random process)

Primary criteria need to be based on biodiversity needs - including opportunities for:

- Increasing **integrity** and **connectivity** of habitats at large scales (*esp. to support adaption to climate impacts*)
- Expanding habitats for **threatened** communities and species

This applies to all 3 of the T2 ecosystem types (i) terrestrial, (ii) inland waters and (iii) coastal and marine



Other considerations in setting priorities:

- Cultural priorities of Indigenous communities (time imperative)
- Potential synergies with other GBF targets (e.g. climate)
- Opportunity to reverse associated degradation drivers
- The existence of feasible and reliable methodologies
- Existing initiatives/investments (including faunal reintroductions)
- The interests, capacity and opportunities of restoration actors
- Opportunities to incentivise and model restoration actions
- Opportunities to promote restoration to the general public

These can also act as FILTERS or criteria for prioritising ACTUAL projects.



Point 2. Candidate areas should include both:


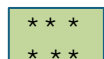

- (i) **high priority native ecosystems** and
- (ii) **Associated converted areas** where work is needed to reduce drivers of degradation

Because ... there are 2 restoration types accommodated in GBF Target 2:

- **Ecological restoration** (i.e. directly restoring native ecosystems)
- **Rehabilitation** (i.e. restoring **functions** to provide **services** - with only '**net benefits**' to biodiversity rather than directly restoring biodiversity.)





Terrestrial ecosystems – typical configuration of the 2 types

-  = Remnant veg
-  = Ecological restoration
-  = Rehabilitation (improved functions)



Any spatial mapping needs to include candidate areas for *both* restoration types Scenario 1: Highly reduced EECs

 Previous extent 'Big Scrub' rainforest (CEEC) 75,000 ha

 Now reduced to 1% (750ha) mainly small, isolated remnants on private land

Recent decades of restoration adds only another 1% area – with about c.1000 ha now 'under effective restoration'.

Could expand that to well over 2000 ha by 2030 if guide and promote much more 'rehabilitation' on farms.



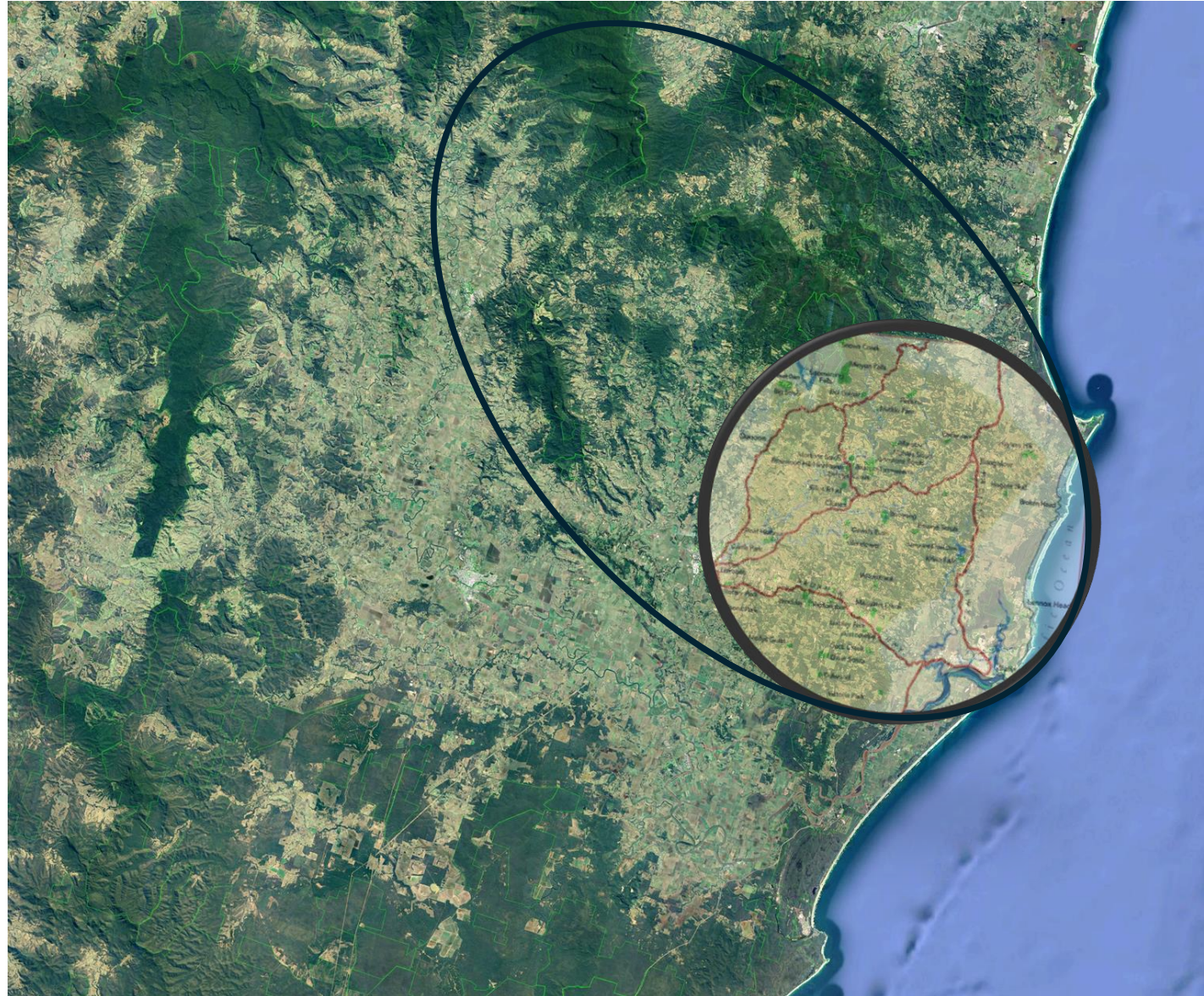
Rehabilitation includes restoring soil, water and air (i.e. climate) condition thus also affecting aquatic areas.



Scenario 2:

Far higher areal extent can be expected if also include areas of **better condition**

.. with a focus on improving **integrity** and **connectivity**



Improving fire regimes **alone** can be an ER activity - and could lead to substantial improvements for biodiversity over time in the region's:

- grasslands
- dry forests
- Rainforests



Point 3. Priority areas should not be the sole component of Australia's target or we are selling Australia short – i.e. small scale works add up and engage the broader community

Locations of work site polygons (10km grid) in **BioCollect's 'Habitat Restoration Hub'**

Northern Rivers = 1,870 sites; 5,317 ha
Private lands = 81% of sites and 73% of area



Size (ha) of work sites in the NR

