

Birds on Farms

Habitat Assessment Form for a 2-hectare survey area

Date of habitat assessment:	Name of person filling out form:
Survey area ID (e.g. T302):	Nearest town/location name:

Note: all survey details will be kept confidential

DESCRIPTION OF 2 HECTARE SURVEY AREA/PLOT

SECTION 1 – GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Q1a. Tick one or more options which best describe the vegetation within the 2-ha survey area	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remnant* trees/shrubs (e.g., with trees/shrubs that have 'always' been there - more than 80 years old)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Native trees/shrubs that have regenerated naturally (after past clearing or other disturbance)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planted trees/shrubs - revegetation (including both indigenous and non-indigenous plant species)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planted trees/shrubs - garden & ornamental plantings (including both indigenous and non-indigenous plant species)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shrubby midstorey – with no or few trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	Native grassland (with mostly native grass/herb species)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-native grassland – not 'improved' (with mostly non-native and weedy grasses/herb species)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pasture (improved or fertilized grassland)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cropland - annual plants (e.g., wheat, corn, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cropland - perennial (e.g., orchards, vineyards)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (briefly describe):

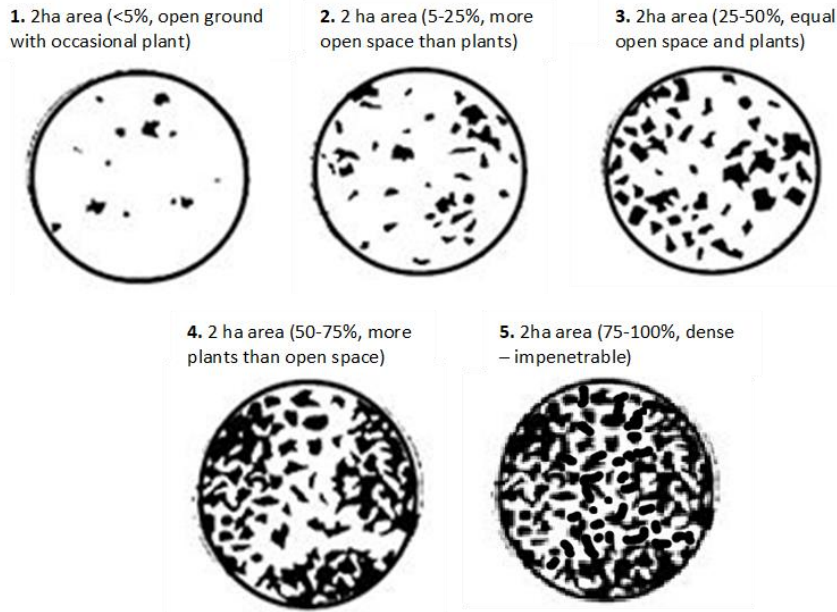
Q1b. If the 2-ha survey area contains planted or regenerated trees/shrubs , what is their average age? (tick one) – not including garden and ornamental plantings.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	None – not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 to 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	21 to 30 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	less than 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	11 to 20 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	>30 years

Q1c. If the 2-ha survey area contains planted trees/shrubs , identify the proportion that have been planted using the following techniques (tick one for each row) – not including garden and ornamental plantings								
Tubestock plantings	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 25%	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 to 90%	<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 90%
Direct seeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 25%	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 to 90%	<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 90%

Q1d. What best describes the topography of the 2-ha survey area? (tick one)					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flat / floodplain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gentle slope	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (describe briefly):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ridge / hilltop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium slope		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gully	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steep slope		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undulating	<input type="checkbox"/>			

CALCULATING FOLIAGE COVER – For Sections 2 to 5

Imagine looking at the vegetation from above (a birds eye view) or from below (looking up at the mid-storey layer or tree canopy). Assume that each individual plant has a full cover out to the edge of its drip line. Example provided below of what the different levels of cover might look like across a 2 hectare area.



SECTION 2 – TREE LAYER

Usually eucalypts make up the tree layer. Refers to specimens above 8m tall, and up to 40+m in wetter forests.

Q2a. Tick one option which best describes tree canopy cover within the 2-ha survey area (see example in section 9)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	0 No trees within 2ha area. GO TO QUESTION 3a	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 (25-50%, moderate tree density)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 (<5% cover, mostly treeless, widely spaced)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 (50-75%, moderate to high tree cover throughout)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 (5%-25%, low-to -moderate density trees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 (75-100%, very dense tree canopy - e.g., wet forest, rainforest)

Q2b. Tick one option which best describes the type of trees within the 2-ha survey area	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly native tree species, indigenous to this area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly native tree species, but not indigenous to this area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A mix of the above two categories
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly introduced (non-native) tree species (e.g. pine trees, oaks, other northern hemisphere trees)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (briefly describe):

Q2c. Tick one option which best describes the diversity of tree species within the 2-ha survey area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 1 species	To best of your ability, please name the dominant tree species: Species 1: Species 2: Species 3:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 2 or 3 species	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 4+ species	

Q2d. Tree trunk diameter at chest height (using a rough estimate), circle one for each tree diameter category					
1cm to 30cm diameter	<i>None</i>	<i>1 to 5 trees</i>	<i>6 to 20 trees</i>	<i>21 to 50 trees</i>	<i>More than 50 trees</i>
30cm to 80cm diameter	<i>None</i>	<i>1 to 5 trees</i>	<i>6 to 20 trees</i>	<i>21 to 50 trees</i>	<i>More than 50 trees</i>
More than 80cm diameter	<i>None</i>	<i>1 to 5 trees</i>	<i>6 to 20 trees</i>	<i>21 to 50 trees</i>	<i>More than 50 trees</i>

Q2e. Estimate the number of trees in the 2-ha survey area within each of the following categories (circle one answer in each row)								
Dead trees (still standing)		None		1 to 3		4 to 10		More than 10
Trees with 1+ hollows		None		1 to 3		4 to 10		More than 10
Trees with Mistletoe		None		1 to 3		4 to 10		More than 10

SECTION 3 – MIDSTOREY* (tall shrubs and small trees; 2m to 8m tall)

*Trees and tall shrubs that never form part of tree canopy (e.g. Acacias, Sheoaks, Cherry Ballarts, immature eucalypts)

Q3a. Tick one option which best describes midstorey cover within the 2-ha survey area (see example before section 2)			
	0	No midstorey within 2ha area. GO TO QUESTION 4a	3 (25-50%, moderate density midstorey)
	1	(<5%, mostly absent, with occasional plants)	4 (50-75%, moderate to high density midstorey)
	2	(5-25%, low-moderate density midstorey)	5 (75-100%, very dense midstorey. Continuous cover.)

Q3b. Tick one option which best describes the type of midstorey species within the 2-ha survey area	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly species native to Australia <u>and</u> also indigenous to this area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly species native to Australia, <u>but not indigenous</u> to this area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A mix of the above two categories
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly introduced species – that is, species that are not native to Australia
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (briefly describe):

Q3c. Tick one option which best describes the diversity of midstorey species within the 2-ha survey area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 1 species	To best of your ability, please name the dominant shrub species: Species 1: Species 2: Species 3:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 2 or 3 species	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 4+ species	

SECTION 4 – SHRUB LAYER (shrubby/multiple stemmed plants 0.5m – 2m tall)

Q4a. Tick one option which best describes shrub cover within the 2-ha survey area (see example before section 2)			
	0	No shrub layer within 2ha area. GO TO QUESTION 5a	3 (25-50%, moderate density shrub layer)
	1	(<5%, mostly absent, with occasional plants)	4 (50-75%, moderate to high density shrub layer)
	2	(5-25%, low-moderate density shrub layer)	5 (75-100%, very dense shrub layer. Continuous cover.)

Q4b. Tick one option which best describes the type of shrubs within the 2-ha survey area	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly species native to Australia <u>and</u> also indigenous to this area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly species native to Australia, <u>but not indigenous</u> to this area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A mix of the above two categories
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mostly introduced species – that is, species that are not native to Australia
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (briefly describe):

Q4c. Tick one option which best describes the diversity of shrub species within the 2-ha survey area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 1 species	To best of your ability, please name the dominant shrub species: Species 1: Species 2: Species 3:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 2 or 3 species	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominated by 4+ species	

SECTION 5: GROUND COVER (plants less than 50cm tall)

Q5a. Tick one option which best describes native grass/herb cover within the 2-ha survey area (see example before section 2)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	0 None within 2ha area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 (25-50%, moderate density)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 (<5%, mostly absent, with occasional plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 (50-75%, moderate to high density)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 (5-25%, low-moderate density)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 (75-100%, Very dense. Continuous cover.)

Q5b. Tick one option which best describes exotic grass/herb cover within the 2-ha survey area (see example before section 2)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	0 None within 2ha area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 (25-50%, moderate density)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 (<5%, mostly absent, with occasional plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 (50-75%, moderate to high density)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 (5-25%, low-moderate density)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 (75-100%, Very dense. Continuous cover.)

Q5c. Tick one option which best describes the cover of twigs/rocks/leaf litter within the 2-ha survey area			
<input type="checkbox"/>	0 None within 2ha area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 (25-50%, moderate density)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 (<5%, mostly absent, with occasional plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 (50-75%, moderate to high density)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 (5-25%, low-moderate density)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 (75-100%, Very dense. Continuous cover.)

Q5d. What is your best estimate of the total number of logs* within the 2-ha survey area?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	11 to 40	<input type="checkbox"/>	40+

*For this study, a 'log' is defined as a fallen branch or tree that has a girth of more than 10 cm and a length of at least one metre

SECTION 6: LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

Q6a. Tick one option that best describes the main land use <u>within</u> the 2-ha survey area			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orchard – fruit trees or shrubs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crops – cereal / broad leaf	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windbreak – native and non-native species
<input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fenced waterway (water quality control)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timber harvest forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (briefly describe):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat Conservation area (including revegetation)		

Q6b. Is 2-ha survey area irrigated? (circle one)	YES	NO	Unsure
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Q6c. Tick 1 to 3 options that best describe the main land uses <u>adjacent</u> to the 2-ha survey area (within a 1km radius)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orchard – fruit trees or shrubs/vines
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crops – cereal / broad leaf	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windbreak – native and non-native species
<input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fenced waterway (water quality control)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timber harvest forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (briefly describe):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat Conservation area		

Q6d. Are areas adjacent to the survey site irrigated? (circle one)	YES-more than 50%	YES-less than 50%	NO	Unsure
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Q6e. Tick one option that best describes the length of time the 2-ha survey area has been grazed by domesticated livestock (e.g. cattle, sheep, alpaca, farmed horses, deer and goats), within the past 12 months .			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continuously (the entire 12 months)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rarely (from 1 day to 6 weeks)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regularly (6 to 11 months)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never (Go to QUESTION 6g)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasionally (from 6 weeks - 6 months)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure

Q6f. Tick one option that best describes the typical grazing intensity by domestic livestock within the 2-ha survey area									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy/pulse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (e.g. rotational):

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Survey area ID (e.g. T302):

Q6g. Within the next 5 years, how often is the 2-ha survey area likely to be grazed by domestic livestock?			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continuously (more than 4 years)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rarely (from 1 day to 3 months)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regularly (from 1 to 4 years)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasionally (from 3 to 12 months)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure

Q6h. If survey area **NOT currently** grazed by domestic livestock, estimate how many years **since it was last grazed**

Q6i. What has been the intensity of grazing by other 'wild' medium-to-large herbivores (native and feral) during the past 12 months? Tick one box within each row. Add additional species if needed (e.g. pig, brumby).										
Kangaroo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure
Wallaby	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure
Deer (wild)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure
Goat (wild)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure
Rabbit / Hare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure

Q6j. Which introduced predator(s) do you know –or suspect– to be regularly active in and around the 2-ha survey area?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild Dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cat (feral or domestic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Fox	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (list them):

Q6k. Tick any of the following that have been applied on a broad scale - within the 2-ha survey area, in the past 2 years.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fertilizer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Herbicide	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pesticide

Q6l. Fire - has the 2-ha survey area ever been burnt by wildfire or a controlled burn? If yes, include year of known last burn					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure

SECTION 7: AVAILABILITY OF WATER

Q7a. For each water 'source', mark one box in each row that describes their proximity to the 2-ha survey area (you can mark each box more than once depending on number of water sources)?					
	<i>Occurs within survey area</i>	<i>1 to 100 metres</i>	<i>101 to 300 metres</i>	<i>More than 300 metres</i>	<i>Not sure</i>
Natural wetland/billabong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm dam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ornamental garden pond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creekline/river/channel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7b. Estimate the typical length of time each year that there is open water present within the 2-ha survey area.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	A - almost never	<input type="checkbox"/>	C - 1 to 4 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	E - more than 8 months
<input type="checkbox"/>	B - a few days to 1 month	<input type="checkbox"/>	D - 5 to 8 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	X - Don't know

SECTION 8: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

FEEL FREE TO ADD ANY OTHER RELEVANT COMMENTS ABOUT THE 2ha SURVEY AREA AND/OR SURROUNDING AREA:

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