

Vegetation health monitoring tool



Angas Bremer Water Management Committee Inc.

Section One

Site Name:..... Date:

Observers:..... Photo numbers:.....

Adjacent Land Use:

Stream or Swamp Cross-Section *Draw a cross-section of plant types, channel shape & flow direction.*

Are there any noticeable changes in channel shape or depth?

.....

Overstorey

How continuous is the overstorey? *Draw a line to show how continuous the canopy is for 300m length*

Red gums % Other Local Native (species) %
 Ash..... % Planted non-local natives (species) %
 Olives..... % Other exotics (specify)..... %

Understorey

How continuous is the understorey? *Draw a line to show how continuous the canopy is for 300m length*

Presence/Absence *(Tick present, Cross absent)*

lignum	Saltbush	Grasses	Reeds	tussocks
bottlebrush	-shrubs	- native	-Phragmites	samphire
wattles	-groundcover	- exotic	-Typha	barley grass

Water plants: *emergent* *submerged* *floating* *NO WATER*

Weeds*(Tick present, Cross absent)*

Onion weed Bridal creeper Fennel Pepper Trees Artichokes
 Other (specify).....

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Section Two

Redgum Health Classification System

Redgum Health Class	Description	Photo
Class 0	<p>Long Dead</p> <p>These trees only have large limbs and branches remaining and have no fine dead branchlets that may recover.</p>	
Class 1	<p>Nearly dead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All leaves are from epicormic growth • May only have sparse cover of yellowing leaves • May only have fine <i>dead</i> branchlets that may recover • Most main branches are dead (>50%) 	
Class 2	<p>Stressed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <25% of canopy intact with healthy green leaves • Mostly epicormic growth (>50% of canopy) • Most canopy has dead branchlets (>50%) • Some main branches are dead (<50%) 	
Class 3	<p>Unhealthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-49% of canopy intact with healthy green leaves • <50% epicormic growth • Some dead branches (<50% canopy) 	
Class 4	<p>Sub-optimal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-75% of canopy intact with healthy green leaves, looks <i>thin</i> • <10% epicormic growth • May have dead branchlets (<25% of canopy) 	
Class 5	<p>Healthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >75% of canopy intact with healthy green leaves, looks <i>dense</i> • <5% epicormic growth • May have some dead branchlets and leaves 	

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Section Two Redgum Health

How healthy are the red gums? Estimate % red gums in each health category

TOTAL = 100%

0 **1** **2** **3** **4** **5**
% % % % % %

Long Dead	Nearly Dead	Stressed	Unhealthy	Sub-optimal	Healthy
0	1	2	3	4	5
					

Getting Better



Getting Worse (circle which is appropriate)

Are there any noticeable changes in Redgum health within one site? Yes / No

If yes, what do you think is the cause?

.....

Hollows: how many of the red gums have hollows?

Water source: Irrigation (<5m away) Floods only (dates).....

Redgum Recruitment

Are there any young Redgums? Yes / No

What height(s) are they?

What year(s) did they germinate (if known).....

Is there evidence of grazing? Yes / No

If yes, is it grazed by:

cattle sheep horses rabbits hares

other

Other notes

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Section 3

Swamp Score Card

Swamp Feature	Score				
Leaf litter (dead leaves & twigs)	1 No litter	2	3	4	5 Abundant litter
Bare Ground (bank & top of bank)	1 100% bare	2	3	4	5 no bare ground
Fallen timber	1 none	2	3	4	5 all sizes, never cleared
Redgum Health (ave score Section 2)	1 most nearly dead	2 suffering	3 unhealthy	4 room for improvement	5 most Healthy
Redgum Recruitment	1 none	2	3 Germinate but are mostly grazed	4	5 Germinate every overbank flow & survive
Grazing	1 Uncontrolled ferals & stock	2 Cattle and sheep	3 Cattle only	4 No stock	5 No stock, ferals controlled
Weeds	1 extensive	2	3 <50% cover but more than 3 weed types	4	5 almost none, regularly removed
Understorey	1 None All bare	2 Exotics only Large bare areas	3 <50% native cover, Bare areas	4 <75% native cover, some weeds, no bare area	5 Native >75% No bare areas
Groundcover	1 None All bare	2 Exotics only Large bare areas	3 <50% native cover, Bare areas	4 <75% native cover, some weeds, no bare area	5 Native >75% No bare areas
Mosses and lichens	1 None	2	3 Sparse mosses on ground &/or lichens on litter	4	5 vigorous mosses on ground & lichens on litter
Management plans	1 none	2 Want to do right thing	3 Try to do right thing	4 Plan to do right thing	5 Plan, do, check, review

Swamp Score

/55

Key actions to improve red gum health: