



Overview / Context

MERI in the MURRAY

Emmo Willinck, Murray CMA



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- Purpose
- Principles (Murray MERI Culture)
- Soils MERI CMAs do well
- Soils MERI CMAs need to do better



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Purpose:

- **Assess Performance** (were we successful in what we set out to achieve?).
- **Learning and Refinement** (adaptive management - improve: plans, investment delivery, management practices and communication methods).



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“Overall, the ANAO considers the information reported in the DAFF and NHT Annual Reports has been insufficient to make an informed judgement as to the progress of the programs towards outcomes is not possible to report meaningfully on the extent to which outputs contribute to the outcomes sought by government.”

Auditor General Audit Report No.21 2007–08. Regional Delivery Model for the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality Performance Audit (2008).



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Some of Murray's MERI Principles:

- Don't just rely on the evidence or information obtained by others - **learn-by-doing**
- Optimise collaboration, partnerships and community engagement.
- Consider a mix of M&E activities that gather qualitative and quantitative social, economic and environmental information.
- Its not just about collecting data - plan and resource for data management, interpretation, reporting and responding to occur - make sure the data is evaluated and used.
- Preferably have datasets that can be aggregated and disaggregated at a range of scales.
- Maintain the integrity of long-series repeated core or “back-bone” measures.



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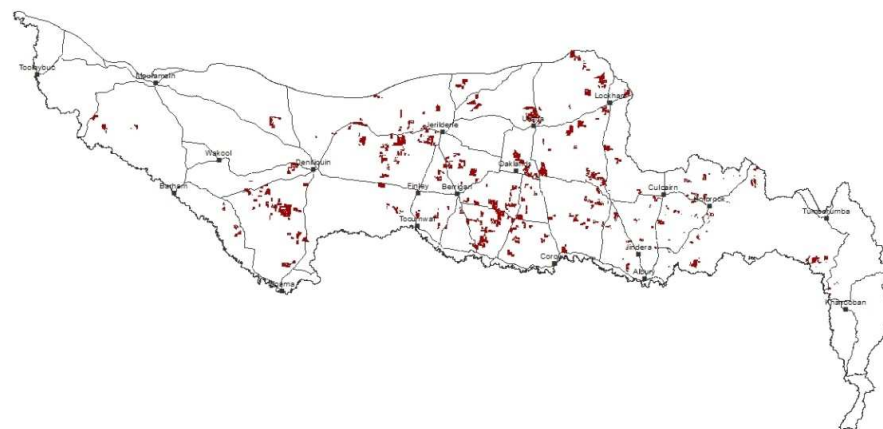




Soils Investment Murray Catchment (2009-2013):

109,500 ha Soil Health

5,700 ha Erosion

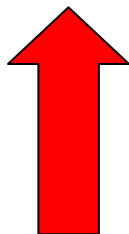


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Outcomes ? **“improving soil health”**



(Lots of \$...lots of assumptions...and lots to learn = High MERI priority)

Outputs ✓ **“ha soil health activities” or “XX capacity building events to improve knowledge and skills”**



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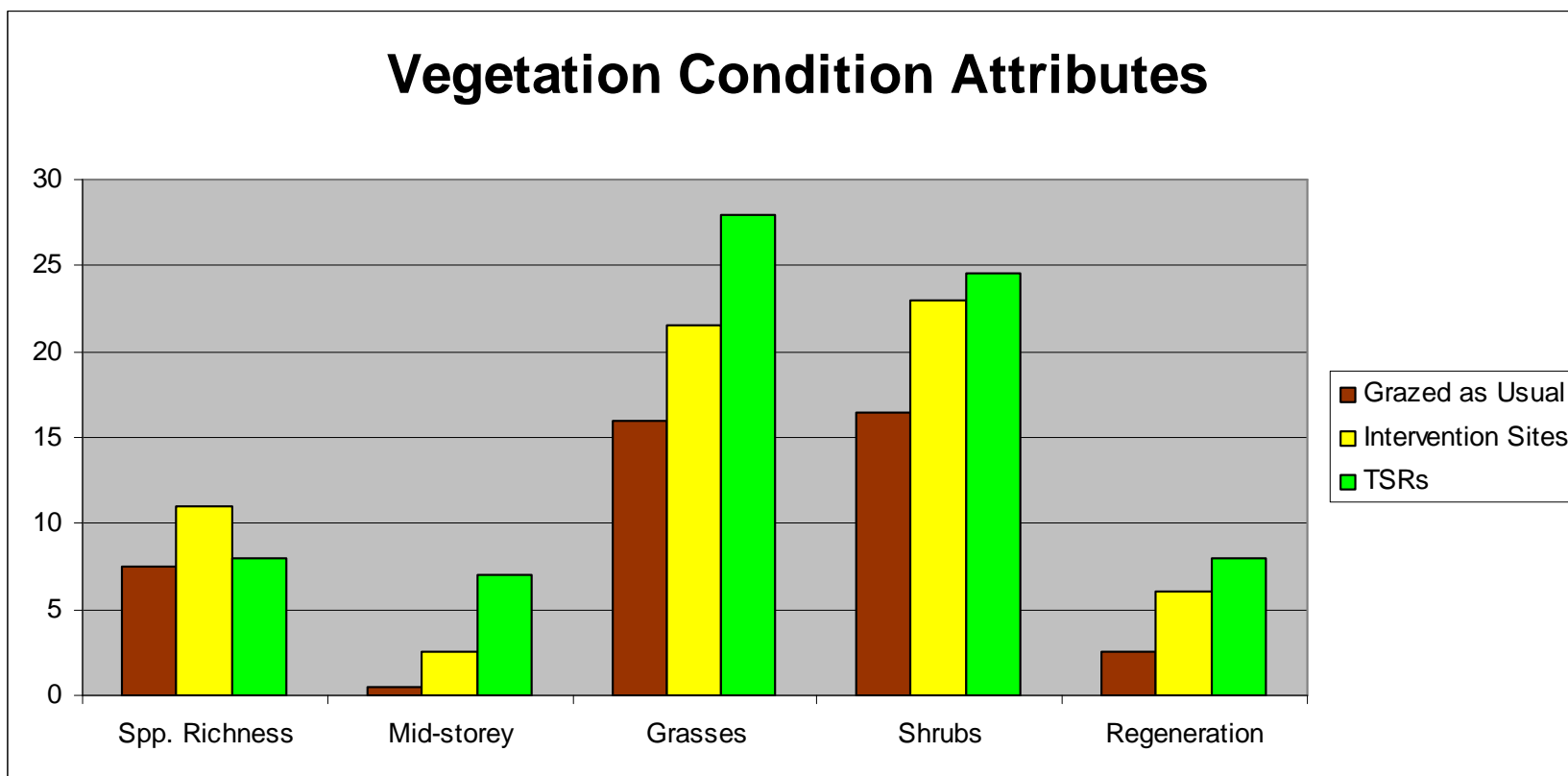


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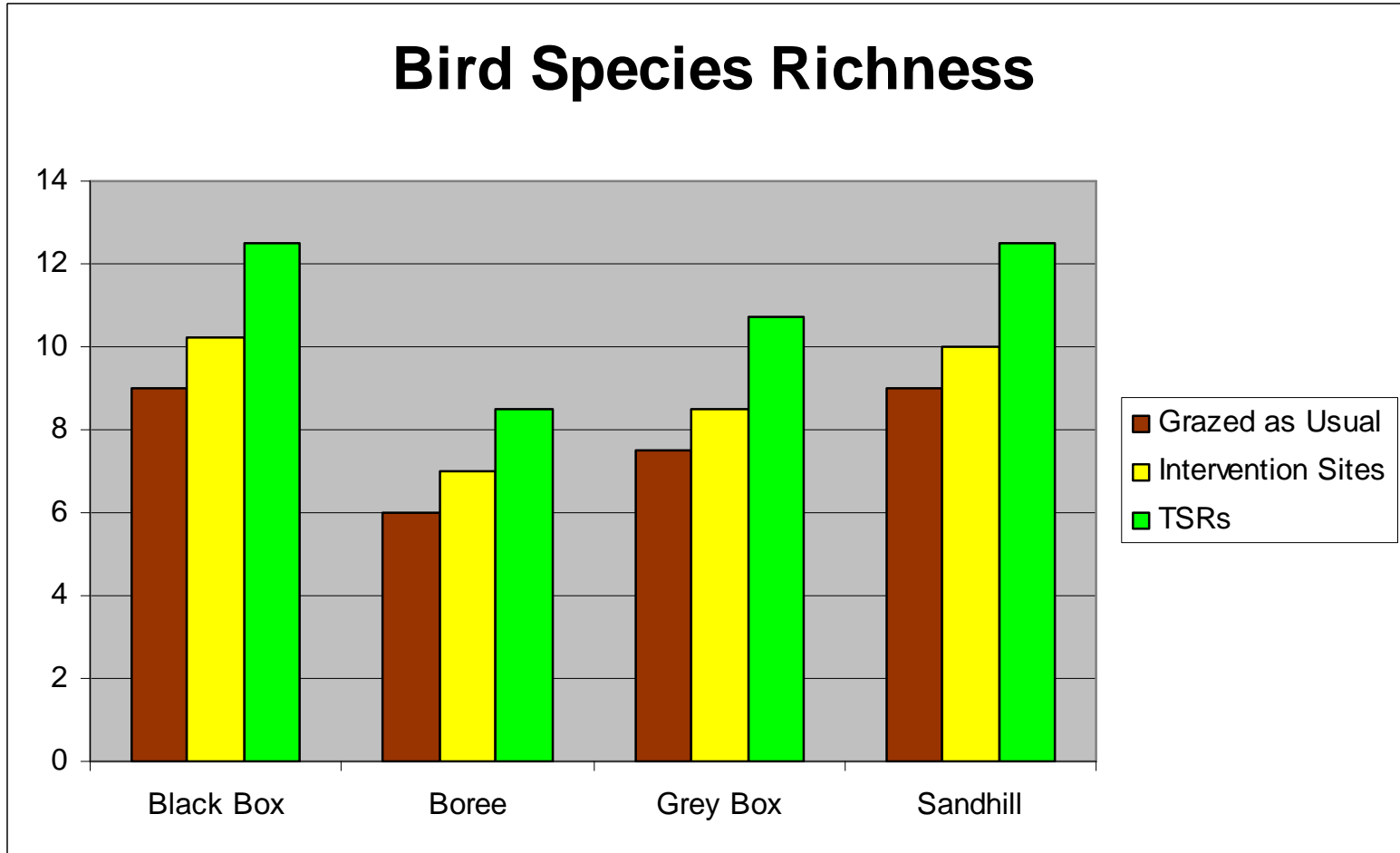
Riverina Bioregion



No difference (to date) for: over-storey cover; groundcover other (eg. forbs); hollows, and logs

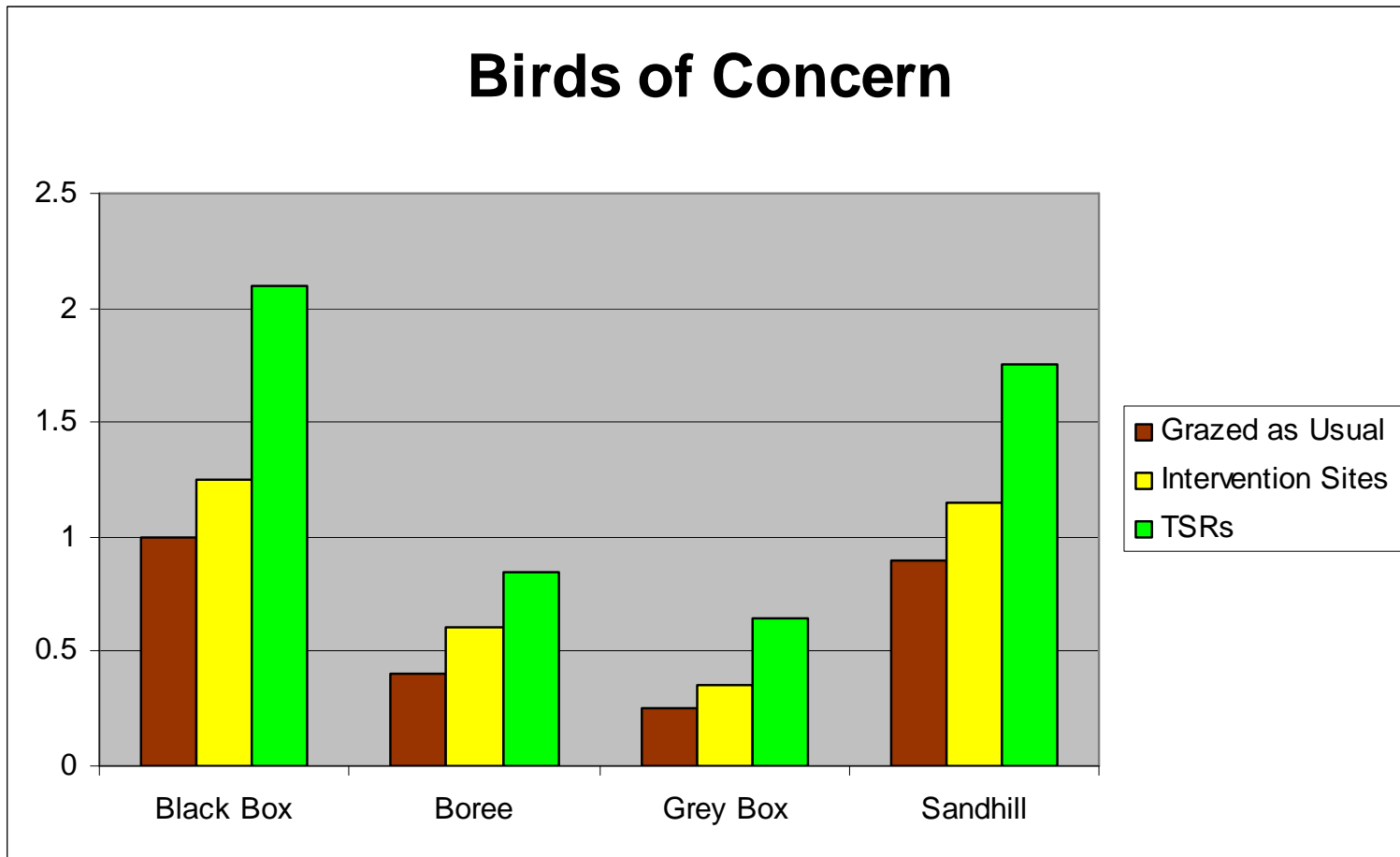


Riverina Bioregion





Riverina Bioregion





“...providing Caring for Our Country with some of the most detailed evidence that our investment is making a difference.”

Joe Ludwig (Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)

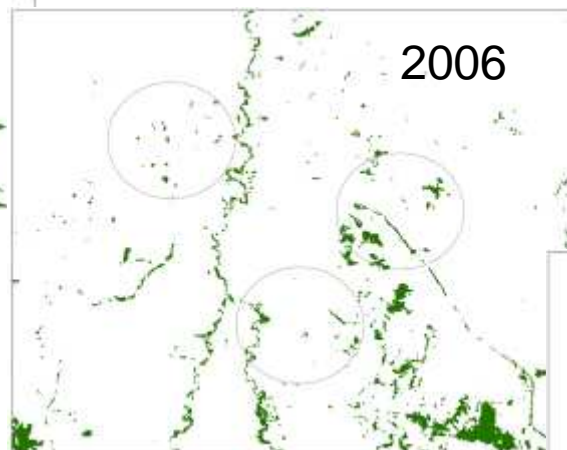
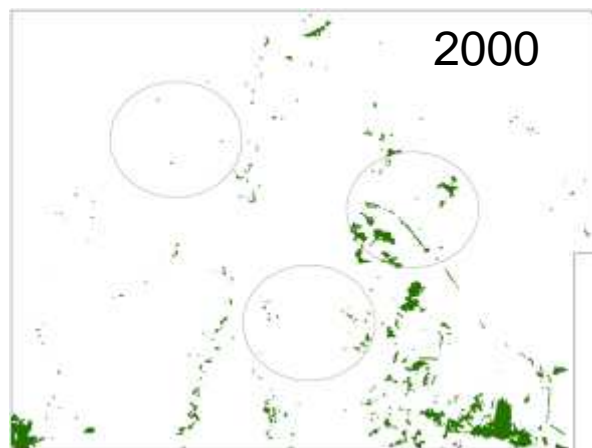


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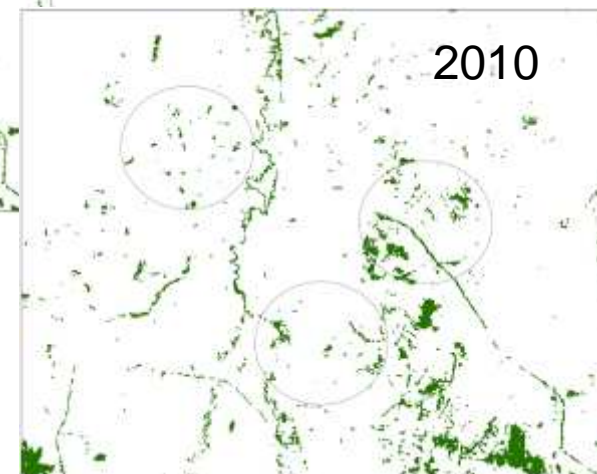




South West Slopes Bioregion



~3.5% increase in
native vegetation cover
in 20 years (2010-2010)





South West Slopes Bioregion

Average Bird Diversity per Site

