

# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF BUSH REGENERATORS

Our vision: Vibrant, healthy, sustainable ecosystems across Australia  
that support our continent's native ecosystems and peoples.



Australian Association  
of Bush Regenerators  
*Working with natural processes*

Our mission: AABR fosters healthy environments by supporting communities, professionals and governments to more effectively protect, repair and manage Australia's native bushland & biodiversity.

# AABR's Objectives



Australian  
Association  
of Bush  
Regenerators

*Working with natural processes*

## 01

Advocating for the appropriate management of Australian ecosystems

## 02

Engaging in education, communication, and dissemination of information to build capacity of land managers to appropriately manage the natural environment of Australia

## 03

Promoting and facilitating appropriate training and skill of all people and organisations engaging in management of the natural environment of Australia

Australia's native ecosystems are complex and precious,  
but have suffered catastrophic damage

'the practice of  
bush regeneration'  
is key, to saving them

...ever wondered what bush regenerators actually do?  
(or rainforest, wetland or grassland regenerators?)  
here's our 12-part story

1





# regenerators prioritise natural recovery processes



nature has a surprising capacity for regeneration once stresses are removed  
although sometimes active intervention is needed to trigger it

2

we predict  
whether natural regen potential  
is truly depleted ... or just waiting



# nature's recovery capacity can be called resilience

it developed over evolutionary timeframes  
through adaptation to natural disturbances  
such as fire, grazing and animal digging

it can also help nature heal  
from disturbances caused by humans



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Rangers at Minyurnai Indigenous Protected Area use burning to manage fire-adapted ecosystems. Photo: Craig Stehn.





The 'Bridges to Boorowa' volunteer bushcare partnership between Boorowa Community Landcare Group and North Sydney Council has been going strong since 1999. Photo: Linda Cavanagh.

regenerators use strategies and techniques suited to the ecosystem we are working in

4  
what do regenerators do?

we might call ourselves rainforest, wetland or grassland regenerators, etc

but often we just call ourselves

'bush regenerators'

a term with a long and proud history in Australia







5

regenerators know  
that resilience is often hidden  
in soil seed banks or dormant buds

resilience can also be migratory  
with seed carried in from distant sources  
by wind, water or animals



regenerators seek to understand  
how an ecological community functions

for restoration  
managing competition from non-native species  
is usually top priority  
and that can sometimes be enough  
to trigger native germination from soil seedbanks



to optimise regeneration  
we often mimic  
the site's characteristic natural disturbances  
(e.g. soil disturbance, fire, or flood cycles)



# regenerators plan for multiple strategically-timed follow-up weed treatments

7

managing weed competition gives native plants a chance  
it can open up a site, promoting native germination  
but will also trigger new generations of weed

we work to prevent new weed from seeding  
thereby reducing weed seedbanks  
while encouraging native seedbanks to increase

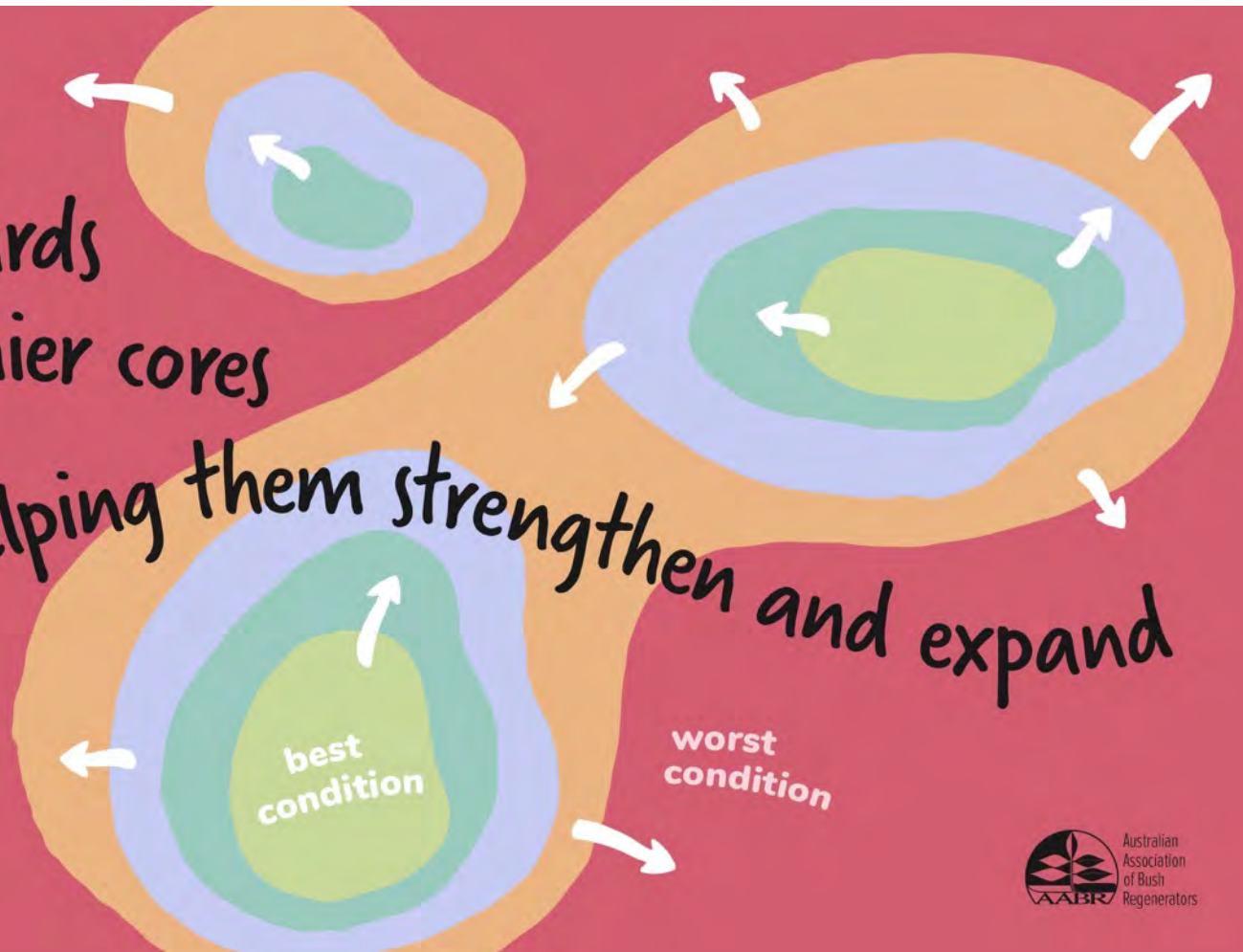




regenerators  
work outwards  
from healthier cores



helping them strengthen and expand





## PLAN OF WORK

**1 = TREATMENT PRIORITIES**

Progressively take on new areas only as resources allow.

BUSHLAND CONDITION  
BEST  
WORST



regenerators only start what they can follow up

we select priority areas  
that are within our resources to manage  
controlling new generations of weed  
and allowing natives to regenerate

over time, as natives replace weeds

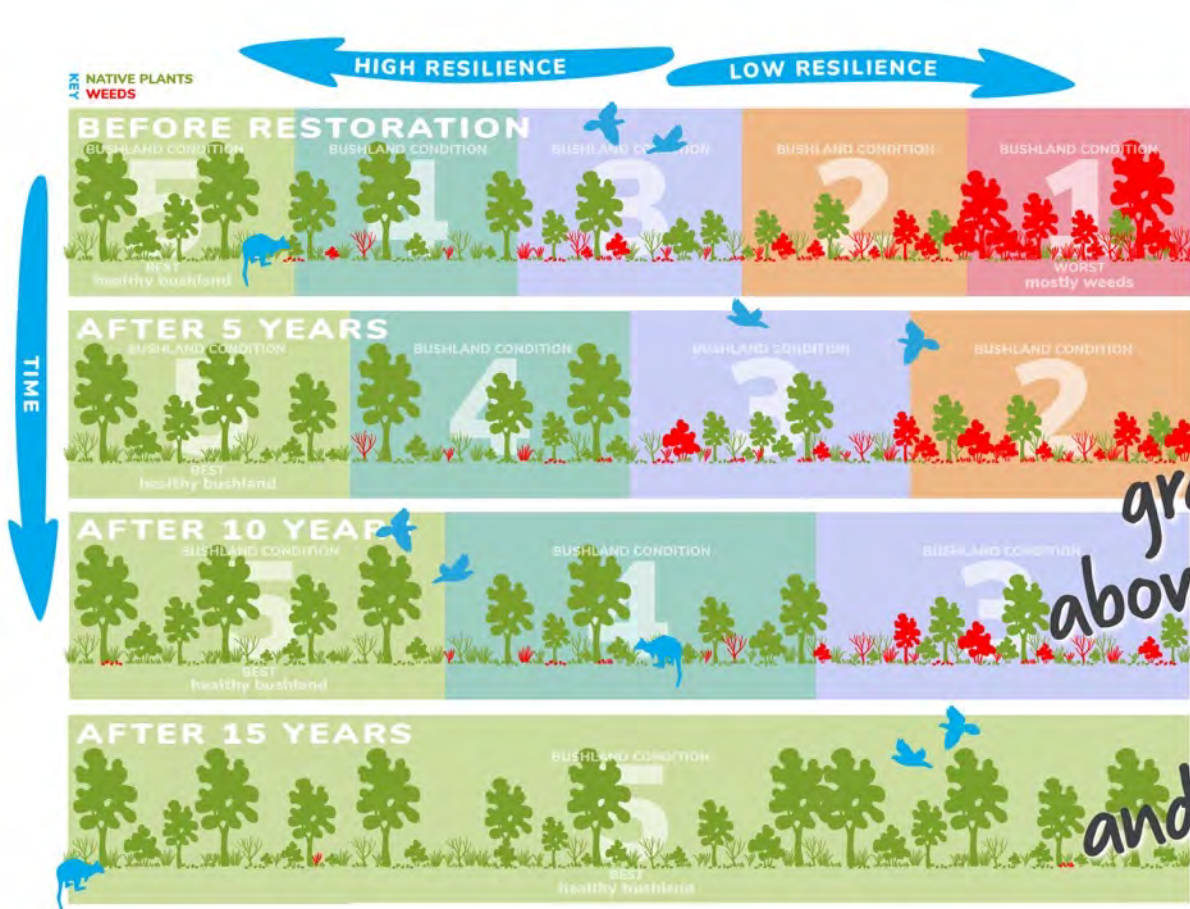
we can progressively take on new areas

so we only bite off  
what we can chew

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100m







10



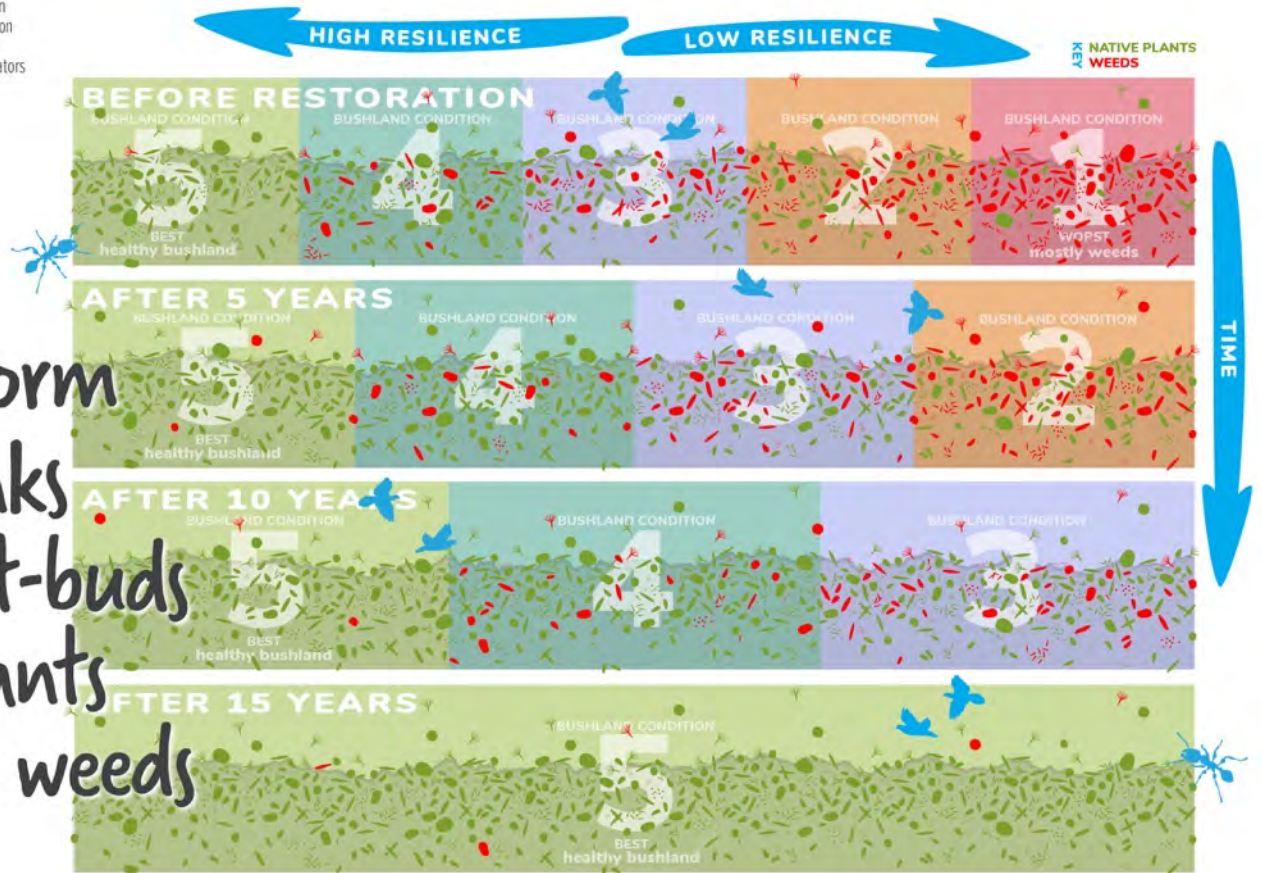
regenerators gradually transform above-ground vegetation to native plants and away from weeds





11

regenerators gradually transform underground banks of seeds and plant-buds to native plants and away from weeds





regenerators assess  
where and when planting or bringing in seed  
will aid the recovery of an ecological community

12

what  
do  
regenerators  
do?

this is generally on sites, or parts of sites  
where resilience is truly extinguished  
and not just 'hidden' in soil seedbanks



Planting on cleared farmland to reinstate woodland communities as habitat for the critically endangered regent honeyeater at Capertee. Photo: Virginia Bear.



# AABR Contact details

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- **Socials**
  - Facebook - AusBushRegenerators
  - YouTube –**regenTV**
  - LinkedIn - [aabr-aus](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aabr-aus)
  - Twitter - ARegenerators
- **Joining AABR**
  - <https://www.aabr.org.au/about-aabr/joining-aabr/>

The screenshot displays the AABR (Australian Association of Bush Regenerators) website. The header includes navigation links: regenTV, Professional Services & AABR Accredited Bush Regenerators, Events, Bush Jobs, Home, Learn, Do, AABR Projects, About AABR, Donate, and a search icon. The main banner features a close-up of yellow flowers with the AABR logo and the tagline "WORKING WITH NATURAL PROCESSES".

**Join Australian Association of Bush Regenerators today!**  
AABR promotes the study and practice of ecological restoration, and fosters and encourages effective management of natural areas by qualified people, based on sound ecological principles. Join us today to help promote good work practices in natural areas, strengthen our industry, and network with like-minded people.

**What's New**  
INTERPRETING THE NATIONAL RESTORATION STANDARDS FOR IMPROVING THE RELIABILITY OF LOCAL RESTORATION PROJECTS  
Tein McDonald & Lincoln Kern  
Watch the Lunchtime Webinar  
Visit What's New for more news items.

**regenTV :: Visit AABR's ever-expanding Video Platform**

Featured videos include:  
- **Innovations in the Chemical Management of Vertebrate Pests**  
- **GRASSLANDS ARE GREAT - and underneath their ground**  
- **get to know the six main weeding techniques**

**Special News and Events**  
New videos on regenTV!  
Dr Andy Baker demystifies reference ecosystems  
Tein McDonald and Lincoln Kern – The Standards and case studies

**Get Informed**  
Review our bush regeneration resources or attend our events to extend your knowledge and practice of ecological restoration.  
- Explore our Post-fire bush regeneration resources  
- Be inspired by case studies that showcase best

**Get Involved**  
Whether you are wanting to contact a bush regeneration service provider, volunteer for a bush regeneration group, or network with like minded people, AABR will point you to the right direction.  
- Find a professional service provider