

APPENDIX I

DEFINITIONS OF CONDITION SCALES

Appendix I: Vegetation Condition Scales commonly used in Perth Metropolitan Region

(Source: *Bush Forever*)

Condition scale used in BUSH FOREVER VOL 2, from Keighery BJ (1994)	Condition scale used to derive Keighery BJ (1994) and Connell (1995) after Trudgen (1991)	Condition scale used in PEP MAPPING after Connell (1995)
<p>Pristine (1) Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance</p>	<p>Excellent (E) Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by the activities of European man.</p>	<p>No equivalent unit.</p>
<p>Excellent (2) Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species.</p>	<p>Very Good (VG) Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by the activities of European man. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fires and the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds such as <i>Ursinia anthemoides</i> or <i>Briza</i> species, or occasional vehicle tracks.</p>	<p>Very Good (VG) Evidence of localised low level damage to otherwise healthy bush. Seedling recruitment and generally healthy population size (age/stage) structure apparent. Weed and grazing damage is confined (<20% of area). Some modification to vegetation structure due to changes in fire regimes may be apparent. Evidence of logging or firewood collection may be found. High likelihood that vegetation structure and species richness can be maintained.</p>
<p>Very Good (3) Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and grazing.</p>	<p>Good (G) More obvious signs of damage caused by the activities of European man, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as caused by low levels of grazing or by selective logging. Weeds as above, possibly plus some more aggressive ones.</p>	<p>Good (g) Evidence of localised high level damage to otherwise low level damaged bush. Recruitment is localised and the populations of some species may be senescent. Weed and grazing damage is apparent in 20-50% of the area. Modification to vegetation structure due to changes in fire regimes may be apparent. Localised gall and parasitic plant damage may be apparent. Evidence of logging or firewood collection. Moderate likelihood that vegetation structure and species richness can be maintained.</p>
<p>Good (4) Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.</p>	<p>Poor (P) Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate to it after very obvious impacts of activities of European man such as grazing or partial clearing (chaining) or very frequent fires. Weeds as above, probably plus some more aggressive ones such as <i>Ehrharto</i> species.</p>	<p>Poor (p) Widespread high level damage. Recruitment is disrupted and most woody species appear senescent. Weed and grazing damage may be apparent throughout >50% of the area. Modification to vegetation structure due to changes in fire regimes may be apparent. Locally some vertical strata are absent. Gall and mistletoe damage apparent. Evidence of logging or firewood collection. Low likelihood that vegetation structure and species richness can be maintained or re-established.</p>
<p>Degraded (5) Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.</p>	<p>Very Poor (VP) Severely impacted by grazing, fire, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species including aggressive species.</p>	<p>Very Poor (p) Widespread high level damage. Recruitment is disrupted and most species appear senescent. Weed and grazing damage apparent throughout the area. Modification to vegetation structure due to changes in fire regimes apparent. Widespread loss of vertical strata. Gall and mistletoe damage apparent. Evidence of logging or firewood collection. Little to no likelihood that vegetation structure and species richness can be re-established.</p>
<p>Completely Degraded (6) The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.</p>	<p>Completely Degraded (D) Area that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation, i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.</p>	<p>Not used – does not apply to bushland.</p>