Summary and key findings

All of the rainforest ecological vegetation classes of the region were always inherently rare. Today, all are threatened as a consequence of past land clearing, ongoing urban development, disease, coastal recreation, weed invasion and grazing (by both domestic stock and feral species), especially by deer and, in some cases, goats. Climate change is looming large as an all-pervasive threat, the magnitude of which challenges the very existence of rainforests across Australia's south-east and presents a serious complication to the restoration and conservation of this vegetation. Restoration information is provided about seven ecological vegetation classes: **Subtropical Rainforest** (on fertile geologies in the subtropical climate zone); **Warm Temperate Rainforest** (of the lowlands and foothills of both the subtropical (on less fertile geologies than Subtropical Rainforest) and in the warm temperate climate zones where it is the most extensive in area); and **Cool Temperate Rainforest** (in the cool moist mountains). More restricted in habitat, but nonetheless found widely across the lowlands and foothills of the subtropical and warm temperate climate zones, are: **Dry Rainforest** (in rain shadow areas); **Dry Gully Rainforest** (in exposed gullies); **Gallery Rainforest** (along streams); and lastly **Littoral Rainforest** (restricted to the coast's dunes, headlands, estuaries and lower river reaches).

This Manual aims to provide:

- **a valuable tool** that can be used by landholders, community groups and government agencies to access the knowledge, techniques and resources needed to restore rainforests
- **an effective and useful reference** that will guide expert rainforest restoration practitioners, specifically in south-eastern Australia (but whose principles are applicable along the eastern seaboard of Australia)
- **a teaching resource** for rainforest restoration in Natural Resource Management courses.

To reach these audiences, this publication has both hard copy and electronic elements to facilitate blended learning opportunities (Trinidad and Pearson 2008), whereby each reader can move at whatever pace and direction their needs, ability and their circumstances allow (or require).

Key findings

The Manual, its Supplement and its Propagation Manual present a huge body of original research undertaken by the people of south-eastern Australia: a key factor for understanding local rainforest ecological processes and the species that occur in the rainforests of your district. These can then be applied to rainforest restoration.