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# MANAGING THE WOODLANDS OF THE MT LOFTY REGION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

David C. Paton, Nigel Willoughby, Daniel J. Rogers, Matthew J. Ward, Joel R. Allan and Andrew West

1. The woodlands of the Mt Lofty Ranges continue to deteriorate and remain management-dependent.
2. On-ground capacity exists, but spatial coverage is inadequate.
3. A mismatch exists between the scale of on-ground works and the scale of ecological processes.
4. Adequate, integrated and iterative planning for the recovery of the woodlands of the region is lacking.
5. A significant gap for managers relates to how systems will respond to recovery activity.
6. While research has influenced strategic policy, translating this into effective on-ground action has been difficult.

## Introduction

We have been working within university and/or government sectors on research and planning aimed at maintaining South Australian species, communities and ecosystems. More recently we have been trying to bring these two components of conservation (research and planning) closer. This chapter documents some of the key points that have arisen from these efforts.

This chapter concerns some of the research and application lessons learnt from working on the conservation of woodland systems in the Mt Lofty region of South Australia (see map on next page). The Mt Lofty region provides a diverse range of environmental settings on which woodlands develop (see Specht 1972; Armstrong *et al.* 2003), resulting in an equally diverse set of ecosystems. Furthermore, these systems are isolated from other large areas of woodland by semi-arid shrubland and mallee to the east and north.