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Layout and composition of a planting

Summary box

- The larger and wider a planting, the better it will be for biodiversity.
- The more similar a planting is to the structure and composition of pre-cleared vegetation, the better it will be for biodiversity.
- The density of a planting should match the original remnant vegetation in the area.
- The biodiversity value of a planting will be increased if it includes old paddock trees, logs and rocks.

Once the location of a planting has been chosen (see Chapter 2), the next steps are to determine:

- the size and shape of a planting,
- which species to plant,
- the spacing of plants, and
- what other features to include.

These key steps in determining the layout of a planting are the primary topics of this chapter.

Size, width and shape of a planting

The dimensions of a planting may be dictated by a number of other farm decisions. A planting intended to primarily act as a windbreak may be long and narrow in