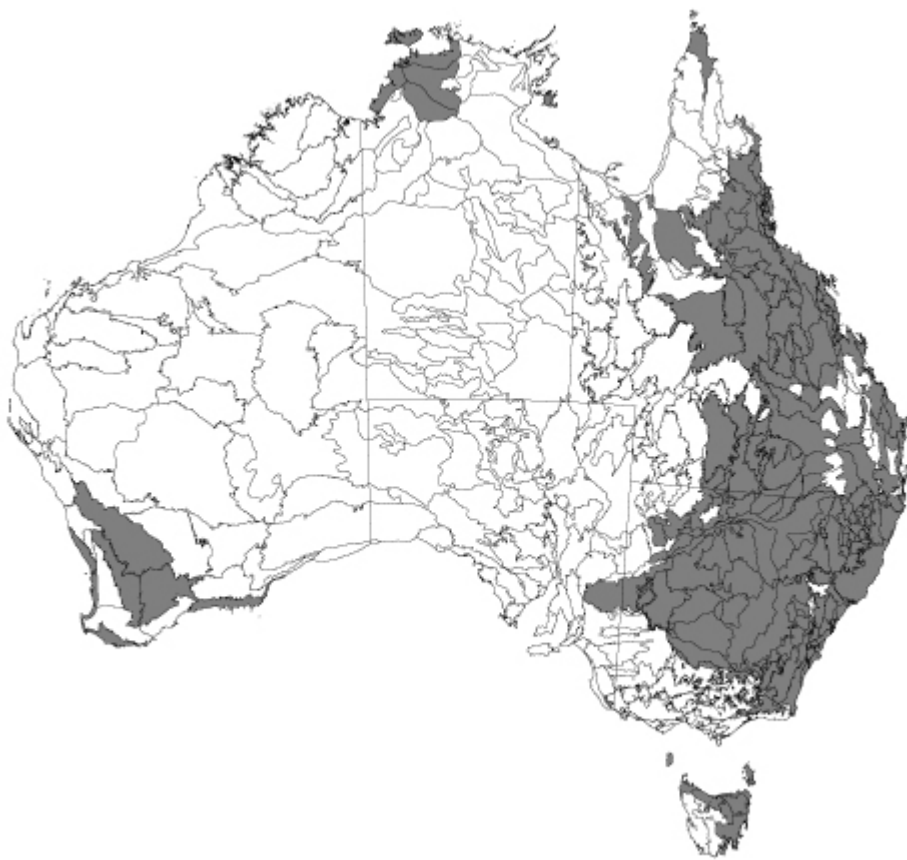


38. VEGETATION CLEARING AS A THREAT

The clearing of native vegetation is a threatening process operating on both ecosystems and species. The Audit's Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment identified regions where vegetation clearing threatens biodiversity.

THREATENED ECOSYSTEMS

- Extensive clearing and increased fragmentation of remnants are principal factors threatening ecosystems in eastern Australia. In northern Australia, horticulture and the introduction of improved pastures threaten ecosystems.
- Urgent action is required to address vegetation clearing and protect threatened ecosystems and species and critical areas such as the Murray-Darling Basin.



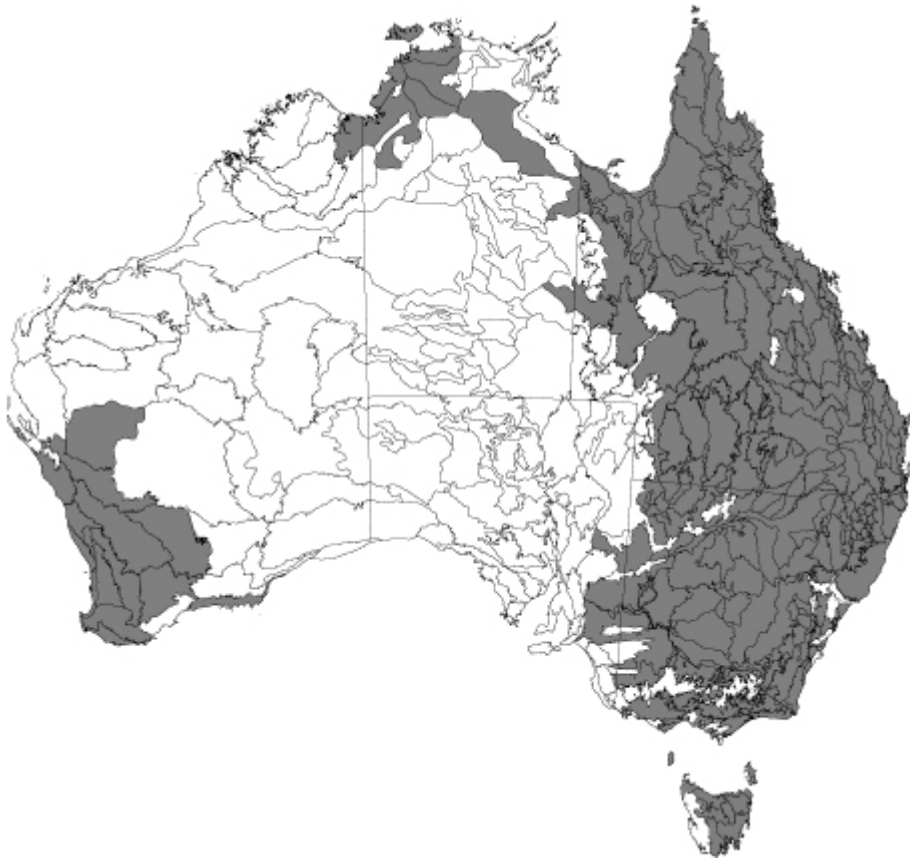
Map 1: Regions where native vegetation clearing threatens ecosystems.

THREATENED SPECIES

Major threats to threatened species include:

- extensive vegetation clearing in Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania
- increased fragmentation of remnants in New South Wales and Western Australia

Enhanced community action in multi-species recovery is needed.



Map 2: Regions where native vegetation clearing threatens species.

Further Information:

See *Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002* for more details.

Also see Audit reports *Landscape Health in Australia* (2001) and *Australian Native Vegetation Assessment 2001*.

Or go to the Australian Natural Resources Atlas (www.environment.gov.au/atlas).
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