

# SERA National Standards for the Practice of Restoration in Australia



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- Founder & Consultant – Natural Area, Perth
- Board Member & Treasurer - SERA
- Committee Member - Revegetation Industry Association of WA (RIAWA)
- Board Member - International Plant Propagators Society

# Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia Inc.

- SERA formed in 2011 to promote ecological restoration
- 155 members
- Major start up supporters, BHP Billiton, Alcoa, ROCLA, MWH & RPS
- Draft standards for restoration practice have been prepared and are available for review

# Board & Standards Partners

## Board Members:

- Professor Kingsley Dixon - Chair
- Vern Newton - Deputy Chair
- Alison Ritchie - Secretary
- David Hancock - Treasurer
- Tein McDonald, Justin Jonson, Bruce Clarkson (New Zealand), Bruno Fogliani (New Caledonia), Peter Erskine, Lucy Commander, David Freudenberger.

- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR)
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)
- Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC)
- Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP)
- Bush Heritage Australia (BHA)
- Gondwana Link
- Greening Australia (GA)
- Indigenous Flora and Fauna (IFFA)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (Advisor)
- Trees for Life (TFL)
- Trust for Nature Vic (TFN Vic)
- Wetland Care Australia (WCA)



# Standards in Brief

- Restoration is a process to assist recovery of a damaged ecosystem
- Explains restoration according to set principles
- The standards outline philosophy and methods



# Principal Features

- Restoration based upon local indigenous reference system
- Full restoration being the outset aim
- Inputs determined by the level of degradation
- Clear objectives & measurement of recovery attributes
- Established synergy across practice and science within projects



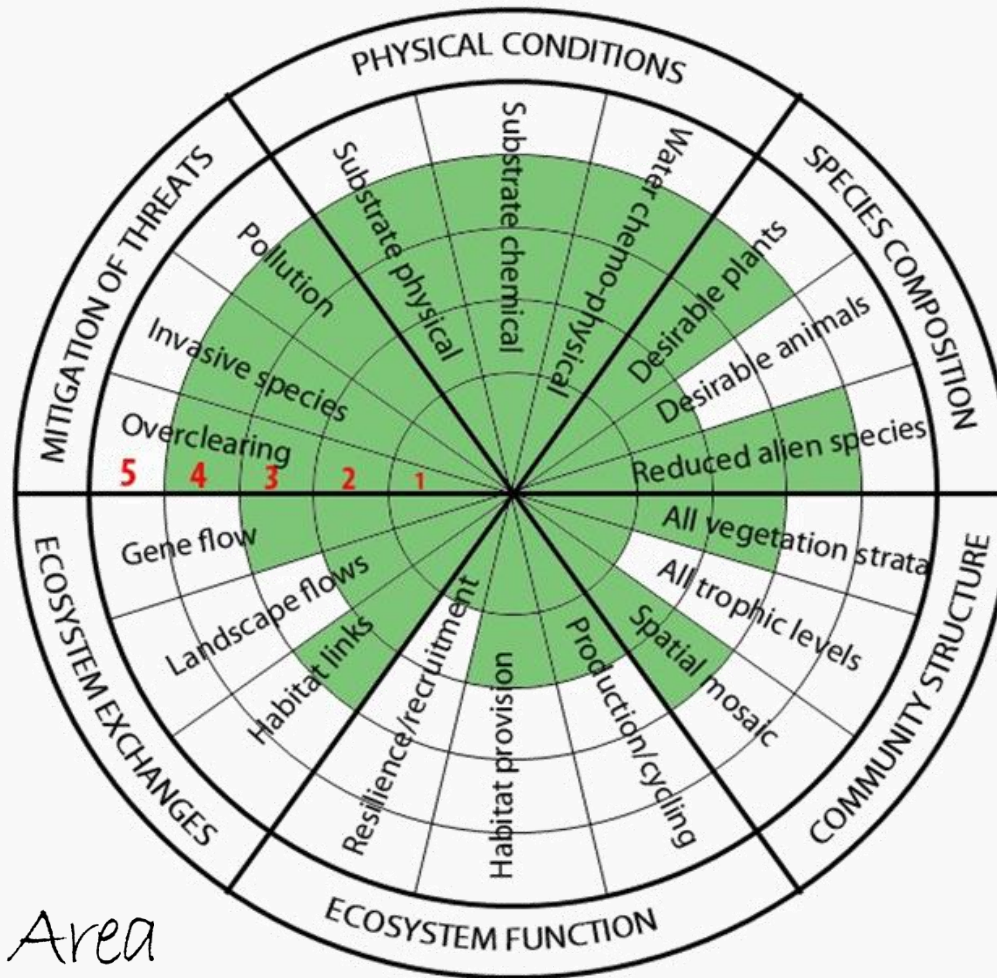
# Restoration Attributes

- The standards provide guiding commentary on:
  - mitigation of threats
  - physical condition
  - species composition
  - community structure
  - ecosystem function
  - ecosystem exchanges
  - 5 levels of measurement applied to each



# Objective Measurement

Matrix of  
Ecosystem  
Attributes



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# Planning, Implementation & Monitoring

Standards Section 3 covers the above matters and:

- reference ecosystems in times of environmental change
- guidance on appropriate restoration approach
- documentation, learning and reporting



# Additional Guidance

Standards Section 5 covers:

- relationship of restoration to other environmental repair activities
- generic principles that underpin restoration
- examples of detailed objectives using quantifiable indicators
- generic 1 to 5 recovery scale against the 6 restoration attributes



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# Conclusions

- Standards high in aspiration in a commercial world
- Regulators have wanted industry and community driven work to guide responses to Environmental impact proposals
- Standards are intended to also drive higher standards into what is described as revegetation/rehabilitation
- SERA clearly sees the need for improved standards in all such work



# Directions & Change Management

- Draft standards available for review
- Final standards expected to drive:
  - Florabank native seed review
  - support for RIAWA seed accreditation system
  - new accreditation levels for nursery native plant stock



# Industry Response

- Take a look at the standards
- Discuss with your colleagues
- Provide some input – [tein@seraustralasia.com](mailto:tein@seraustralasia.com)
- Be part of challenging the status quo



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# Practical Discussion

Issues around quality of restoration plans:

1. inadequate planning for weed management, feral management and maintenance (water!)
  2. inappropriate species selection, plants & seed
  3. inappropriate timings/risk management
  4. no bill of quantities to quote against
  5. loose completion criteria
- Talk to people who work in restoration daily.



# Thankyou!

**Presenter:**

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