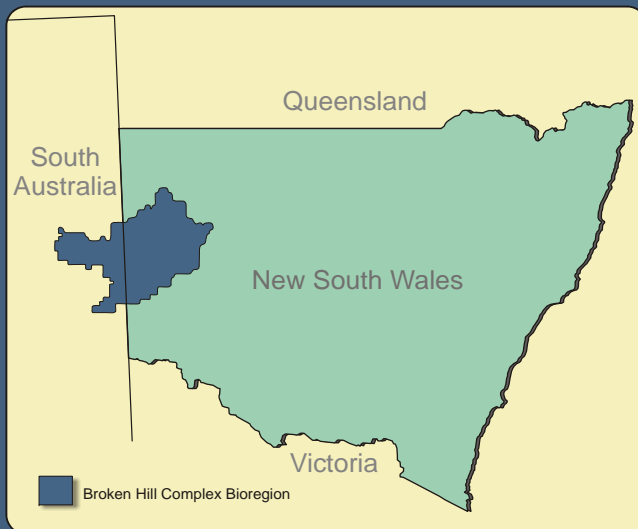


CORNER COUNTRY LANDSCAPES

The Broken Hill Complex Bioregion occupies a considerable land area and extends north, north-west and east from Broken Hill.

Whilst the bioregion includes ranges such as the Scopes, Mootwingee and Wonnaminta, it is the Barrier Range and the lower hills of the Grey Range, that are most dominant in the Corner Country.

Many of the ranges are bounded by long faults producing prominent escarpments and deep gorges on the margins, whilst jump-ups and mesas occur in areas in the north west.





Previous pane: Barrier Ranges.
Below: Salt pan, Pimpara Lake
Right: Red gums in dry creek, Nundooka
Mulga swamp, Pimpara Lake
Jump-ups, Theldarpa



Travelling through the region one becomes aware of a continually changing landscape.

Generally the ranges dominate, locally replaced by open saltbush-covered gibber plains, or sheets of red sand-hills.

The landscape is commonly crossed by red-gum and box tree-lined sandy creek beds. After rain these can turn to raging watercourses which drain their silt-coloured waters into local lakes and swamps. Some

watercourses flow into larger lake systems, such as Bancannia and Bullea. Most are associated with the Murray-Darling Basin.

Sandstone jump-ups and mesas occur throughout the northwest of the bioregion. Further south, gold-bearing quartz and associated slates occur in the region extending from Mt Browne to Tibooburra.

The rocks are amongst the oldest in Australia, the landscape reflecting the effect of many processes over the

2000 million years of earth history.

Despite low annual rainfall, substantial plant life supports a sheep and cattle industry that has been sustained for almost 150 years, as well as significant numbers of birds and animals.

The most common trees across the bioregion are the acacia species especially mulga, but also river red gum, black box, bullock bush, black oak, hakea, gidgee and bloodwood .



Left to right:
Wildflowers, Hawker Gate Road
Emus, The Veldt
Doe and joey, Pimpara Lake
Below: Budgerigahs, Pimpara Lake

One of the effects of land-use has been the spread of invasive native shrubs.

In some areas shrubs such as hop-bush, emu-bush and cassia, are so prevalent that they prevent the growth of native grasses and forbs.

Never-the-less, the region does produce grasses such as Mitchell, button, wire, bottle-washer, as well as perennial never-fail and woolybutt.

A myriad of wildflowers, in-

cluding some which grow only in the area, make for a rich carpet of colour in late winter and early spring.

Attracted by water, seeds and insects, many native birds make their homes in the bio-region, either permanently or on a seasonal basis.

Birds such as emus, willy-wagtails, budgerigahs, mulga parrots, wedge-tail eagles and bronze-wing pigeons join the rarer native pratincoles, gibber birds, and gull-billed terns.

The region also has many reptiles, from the common sleepy lizard, bearded dragons, geckoes, and goannas, to brown and mulga snakes.

Large mammals such as the western red kangaroo, occupy the open plains, whilst eastern grey kangaroos and the smaller wallaby species, prefer the shelter of the ranges.

An occasional find is an echidna, and rarely, tiny marsupial mice.

