Eucalypt woodlands are iconic Australian ecosystems found in an arc from subtropical Queensland to Tasmania, and west to southeast South Australia. While they are found in many areas of eastern NSW, including the coastal and alpine zones, they mostly occur in the wheat-and-sheep belt west of the Great Dividing Range.

Trees are the dominant feature of both woodlands and forests, but in woodlands the trees are generally shorter and stand further apart, providing canopy cover ranging from 10% to 30%. Tree-hollows, seed-bearing grasses, and herbs host a huge variety of parrots, cockatoos, finches and robins, as well as many nomadic honeyeaters that are attracted by the mass-flowering of the eucalypts. Nectar-feeding mammals, including possums and gliders, depend on woodlands, as do many tree- and ground-dwelling species that have been lost across large areas of their former range due to clearing of 90% of their habitat, hunting, and feral predators. These ecosystems are some of the most extensively cleared, heavily modified, and highly degraded vegetation types in Australia and are sensitive to further shocks.

Hotter temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and altered fire regimes will increase weed growth and alter the mix of species in many ecosystems, particularly heat-sensitive woodlands at higher altitudes.

**REGENT HONEYEATER**

The regent honeyeater is a small, spectacularly coloured bird with mottled black-and-yellow feathers and a short, curved beak. It lives in temperate woodlands and open forests. Regent honeyeaters can travel large distances on complex migratory courses governed by the flowering of the eucalypt species that they depend on for nectar.

The birds were common in woodlands across eastern Australia but there are now only three breeding regions left, including Capertee Valley in the Central West and the Bundarra-Barraba region on the Northern Tablelands. Key threats include loss, fragmentation, and degradation of habitat from land clearing, particularly clearing of ironbark woodlands and the yellow box-white box-blakely’s red gum woodlands that grow in the fertile soils of valley floors.

Breeding patterns of the regent honeyeater are closely tied to flowering events so there is concern that a warmer, drier climate may alter flowering patterns and disrupt the species ability to breed. Loss of the regent honeyeater would be devastating for the woodlands it occupies because they are vital pollinators for many eucalypt species. The trees the regent honeyeater pollinates provide food and shelter for many threatened animal species, including koalas, superb parrots, squirrel gliders, swift parrots, and brush-tailed phascogales.

**IMPACTS**

**REGIONS AFFECTED:** NORTHWEST, NORTHERN TABLELANDS, CENTRAL TABLELANDS, CENTRAL WEST, ORANA REGION, RIVERINA, SOUTH COAST

Eucalypt woodlands are iconic Australian ecosystems found in an arc from subtropical Queensland to Tasmania, and west to southeast South Australia.