

COMMON NAME

BLAKELY'S RED GUM

SCIENTIFIC NAME *Eucalyptus blakelyi*

FAMILY MYRTACEAE

CATEGORY NATIVE TREE

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- Tree growing 10–24 m with leaves equally dull green or grey-green on both sides
- Bark mostly smooth, pale, shedding in flakes with grey, creamy-yellow and pink mottles
- Buds in clusters of 5–11; caps elongated and conical; flowers white, very rarely pink, occurring from August to December
- Seed capsules 5–8 mm across with protruding valves or teeth

WHERE IT GROWS & WHY:

- Found from river plains to granite hillsides, but mainly on wetter or lower slopes
- Favours moderately fertile soils on gently undulating sedimentary terrain

MANAGEMENT/SIGNIFICANCE:

- Prone to leaf damage by psyllids or 'lerps' particularly when understorey shrubs and leaf-gleaning birds are absent
- Valuable wildlife habitat, especially for small birds such as pardalotes and thornbills which feed on leaf 'lerps'; useful honey tree
- Useful for gully erosion control behind more fibrous-rooted understorey plants

SIMILAR PLANTS:

- River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) has pinched points on bud caps and grows close to permanent watercourses
- Tumbledown Red Gum (*E. dealbata*) and Dwyer's Mallee Gum (*E. dwyeri*) tend to be smaller, more poorly-formed trees, growing on harsher sites, higher in the landscape



Tree habit, flower buds (note conical points), seed capsules, bark:
L McMahon