

APPENDIX 3. WETLAND IDENTIFICATION

What type of wetland do you have?

In order to manage your wetland effectively, you should know what kind of wetland you have. This way you will know what to expect from your wetland at different times of the year, and you can make management decisions based on what is likely to maintain or improve the health of your wetland.

Take time to correctly classify your wetland using historical data if it is available. Old government reports or newspaper articles can often provide hints of what an area was like in the past. Local stories can also help. The things people used to do, like going swimming or fishing, can also tell you a lot about the features of an area. By knowing the time of year and other details, such as the type of fish they caught, you can get valuable information about how often and when your wetland was wet, whether there were deeper areas and what sorts of plants were around.

Due to altered water regimes it may be hard to classify your wetland accurately. It may be necessary to change your classification once the natural water flow is returned or grazing pressure is reduced.

Monitoring is an essential part of ensuring you have the correct classification as it will determine your management techniques.

The series of questions that follow will help you classify your wetland, in conjunction with Figure 1: A classification guide for NSW wetlands.



Image 3: Dappo wetland, near Narromine. Photo NSW DPI

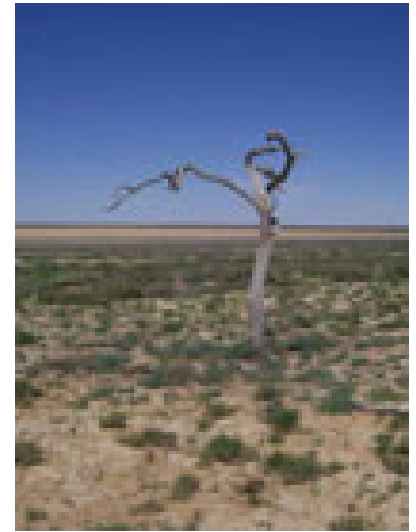


Image 1: Lake Ulenia, an example of an ephemeral wetland. Photo NSW DPI



Image 2: Bore pond, western NSW. Photo NSW DPI

A key to wetland types

The following series of questions will help you identify your wetland type. Alternatively, you might find it easier to use Figure 1.

Q1: Where does your wetland get its water from?

- a. a river go to Q2
- b. groundwater, rainfall or run-off go to Q5

Q2: Your wetland gets its water from a river and it is:

- a. permanently flooded (filled by low river flows or impounded) go to Q3
- b. not permanently flooded (filled by seasonal or intermittent flooding) go to Q4

Q3: Your wetland gets its water from a river, is permanently flooded and is:

- a. mostly open water – the wetland is a **Permanent inland wetland**
- b. mostly reeds – the wetland is a **Reed swamp**

Q4: Your wetland gets its water from a river, is not permanently flooded and is:

- a. mostly open water – the wetland is **Inland floodplain lakes and lagoons**
- b. mostly lignum – the wetland is a **Lignum swamp**
- c. mostly trees – the wetland is **Inland floodplain forest and woodlands**
- d. mostly reeds – the wetland is a **Reed swamp**
- e. mostly grasses, herbs, rushes or sedges - the wetland is **Inland floodplain meadows**

Q5: Your wetland gets its water from groundwater, rainfall or run-off and is:

- a. located in far western New South Wales – the wetland is an **Arid wetland**
- b. not located in far western New South Wales go to Q6

Q6: Your wetland gets its water from groundwater, rainfall or run-off, is not located in far western New South Wales and is:

- a. mostly open water – the wetland is **Upland lakes and lagoons**
- b. mostly vegetation – the wetland is an **Upland swamp**

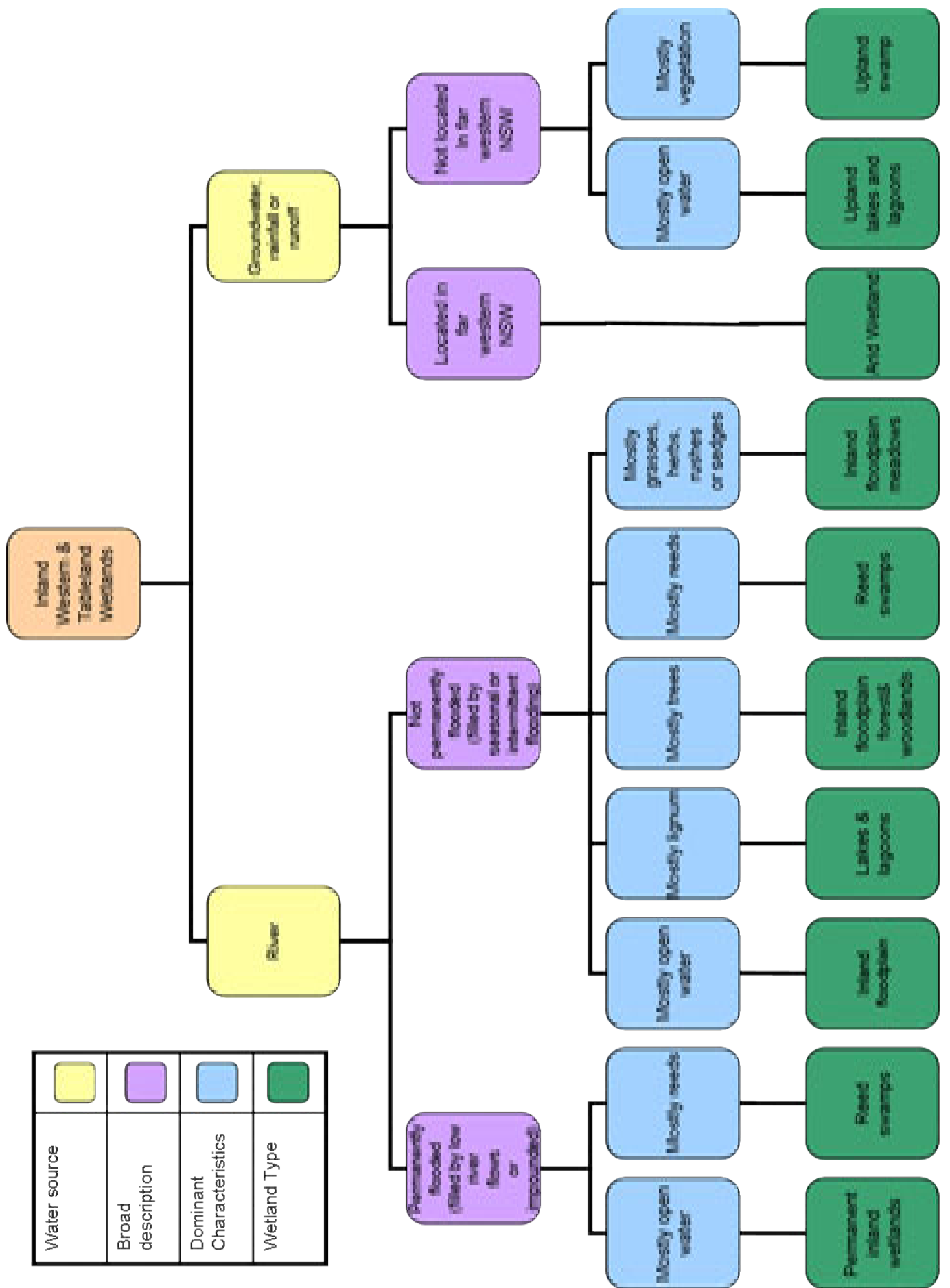


Figure 1: A classification guide for NSW wetlands