

RECORDING SHEET 2

3. VEGETATION STRUCTURE AND COVER

Each layer of vegetation in the plant community is described according to life form, height, cover and dominant species.

• Life Form/Height

Each layer in the community can be selected from the pictorial representations as shown below.

	over 30m	TREES 10 - 30m	under 10m	MALLEES over 8m	under 8m	
LIFE FORM						30m 10m
	SHRUBS over 2m		SHRUBS 2m - 1m	SHRUBS under 1m		2m 1m
LIFE FORM						
	GRASSES	HERBS	SEDGES	OTHER/Notes		1m
LIFE FORM						

For each layer observed, working from the tallest to the shortest stratum, determine:

• Cover

What is referred to as "crown cover" is used to record plant cover. This is the total area under an imaginary line bounding the extremities of all the plants in each group described. The group may be a layer in the community, an individual species, litter or bare ground.

Crown cover

Individual clump



Crown cover area



Take crown cover of all plants concerned and mentally clump them into a corner of the site. This area gives the percentage cover.



= 25%



= 50%

To simplify the estimation of cover in this section cover 'classes' are used rather than trying to estimate an exact percentage .

Cover Classes	2-10%	10-30%	30 - 70%	over 70%
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Not all layers will be present in a site.

• Dominant Species

Record the principal species, according to cover, in each layer. Label each plant as described in the section below. If there are more than three dominant species describe the layer as mixed.