



Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Naracoorte Caves Trail

STOP 2

People have used the Naracoorte landscape in many different ways.

First Nations People have made use of the abundant natural resources in this region for thousands of years. River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), like the ones you see here, are used to make canoes. Examples of canoe trees still exist in the area.

Following European settlement, agriculture became the major industry for Naracoorte. Sheep and wool production played a central role in establishing the district. Along with grazing, cropping and viticulture, it continues to support the thriving rural economy.

Quarrying of the district's plentiful limestone supports industry by supplying materials such as lime and rubble.

Dramatic changes were made to the natural landscape in an effort to increase the amount of arable land available for agriculture. Drainage of wetlands and swampy areas has decreased this habitat for wildlife and since the 1840s, much of the remnant native forest has been cleared. Fossil pollen grains, preserved in the Naracoorte Caves, help scientists reconstruct the original vegetation and inform restoration.

River Red Gums are common 'paddock trees' in the Naracoorte district. Much of the original red gum bushland habitat was cleared, leaving patches of isolated trees with little to no growth of new trees.

However, many landowners are now working hard to restore native vegetation on their properties.



Cropping is an important industry for the region.
Source: Steven Bourne.

