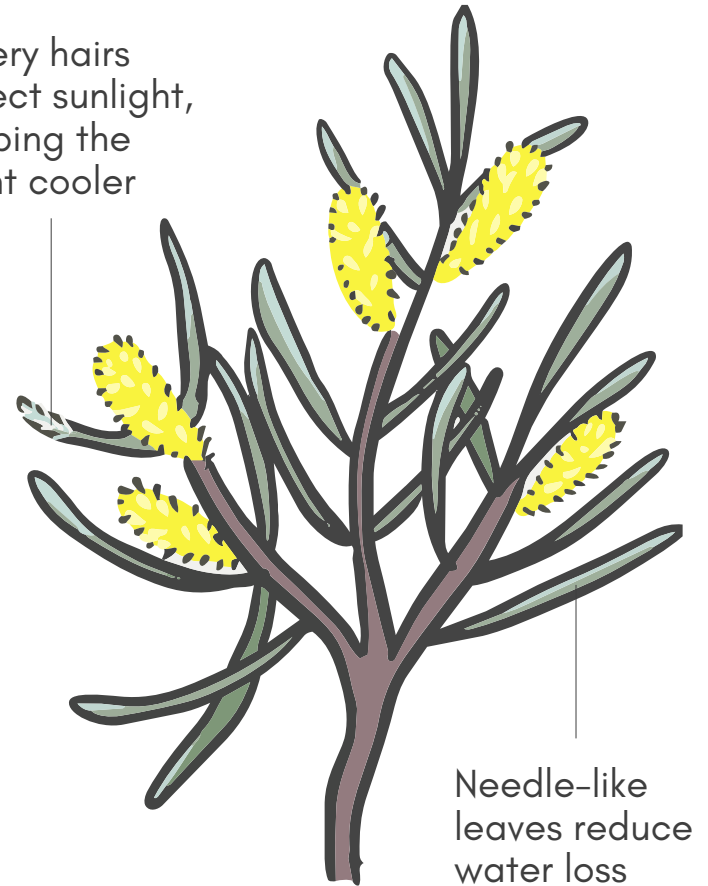


AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

Silvery hairs reflect sunlight, keeping the plant cooler



Needle-like leaves reduce water loss

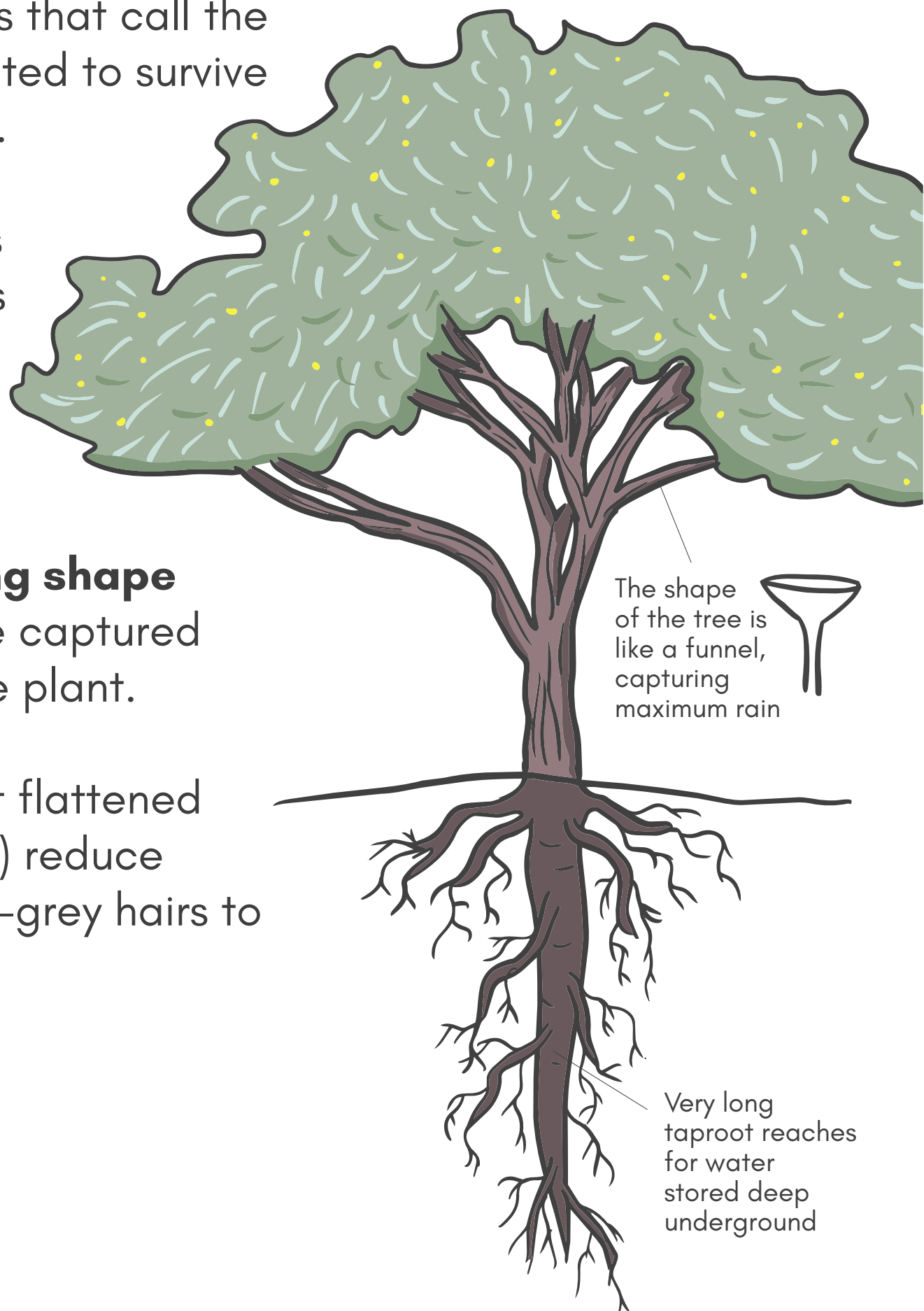
ENDURING THE ARID ZONE: MULGA

Australia is the driest inhabited continent. Therefore, plants that call the arid zone home have adapted to survive extremely harsh conditions.

The iconic wattle known as Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) has a **very long taproot** to source water from deep underground.

Their **funnel-like branching shape** allows scarce rainfall to be captured and sent to the base of the plant.

Needle-like 'leaves' (in fact flattened stems known as **phyllodes**) reduce water loss and have silvery-grey hairs to reflect sunlight.



The shape of the tree is like a funnel, capturing maximum rain

Very long taproot reaches for water stored deep underground