



Vegetation alliances on ridges and slopes of the chert hills of the Coomberdale floristic region

Summary description

The community occurs on ridges and slopes of the chert hills of the Coomberdale floristic region. It was originally described in Griffin (1992). It encompasses seven vegetation alliances including the core units and three vegetation alliances of the buffer units of the Coomberdale Chert community. Core vegetation alliances include *Allocasuarina campestris* (sheoak) shrubland, *Allocasuarina microstachya* scrub, *Regelia megacephala* (priority 4) shrubland, *Kunzea praestans* shrubland and scrub, *Melaleuca calyptroides* heath, *Hibbertia subvaginata* shrubland and *Xanthorrhoea drummondii* shrubland.



Distribution

Noondine chert is a geological formation visible as a discontinuous, narrow band of low hills or outcroppings of the Moora group of Proterozoic rocks. The formation extends from near the town of Three Springs to Moora.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Midwest
DBCA District: Turquoise Coast

Local Government Authority: Shire of Moora

Habitat requirements

The community is restricted to exposed quartzite ridges of the Noondine chert geological formation.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner group: Yued Noongar

A register of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites kept by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage lists several sites of Aboriginal significance in the vicinity of this community's occurrences.

The area is covered by the Yued Indigenous Land Use Agreement as part of the South West Native Title Settlement, which formally recognises Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of the south-west region. The Yued region is supported by the Yued Aboriginal Corporation and umbrella group, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. The Yued Working Party has an active interest in the area.



Conservation status

State: Listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Threatened ecological communities are declared environmentally sensitive areas under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Threatening processes

The major threats to the community are vegetation clearing, weed invasion, grazing by introduced herbivores, altered fire regimes, herbicide and artificial fertilisers, hydrological change, and drying climate.

Recovery plan

An interim recovery plan has been produced for this community, outlining the recovery actions that are required to reduce threats and maintain or improve its overall condition. Recommended actions include seeking to acquire key areas of the community for conservation. A portion of Cairn Hill that includes the largest and most significant occurrence has been declared a nature reserve. Other recommended actions include weed control, rehabilitation, implementation of an appropriate fire management strategy, and fencing small occurrences to exclude stock.

Key references

Appleyard, S. (2002). Palaeokarst in the Noondine Chert in Southwestern Australia: Implications for Water Supply and the Protection of Biodiversity. *Helictite*, 38(1), 17–19.

Griffin, E. A. (1992). *Floristic survey of remnant vegetation in the Bindoon to Moora area, Western Australia*. Resource Management Technical Report 142, Department of Agriculture.

Griffin, E. A. (1994). *Floristic survey of Northern sandplains between Perth and Geraldton*. Resource Management Technical Report 144, Department of Agriculture.

Trudgen, M. E., Morgan, B., & Griffin, E. A. (2006). *A flora survey, floristic analysis and vegetation survey of the Coomberdale Chert TEC*. Prepared for Simcoa Operations Pty Ltd.

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