



Calothamnus graniticus subsp. *graniticus* heaths on south-west coastal granites

Summary description

The community is known from a narrow band parallel to the western shores of Geographe Bay near Meelup. It occurs in areas of exposed granite outcrops and isolated pockets of shallow gravelly-loam soils predominantly found lower in the landscape, but also in isolated pockets upslope where granite boulders dominate. The distinctive *Calothamnus graniticus* subsp. *graniticus* (one-sided bottle brush; priority 4) forms a dense shrub layer with *Gastrolobium spinosum* (prickly poison), *Allocasuarina humilis* (dwarf sheoak) and *Dodonaea ceratocarpa*. Downslope, smaller shrubs include *Boronia tenuis* (blue boronia; priority 4), *Chorizema aciculare* (needle-leaved chorizema), *Hibbertia hypericoides* (yellow buttercups), *Hibbertia spicata*, *Lysiandra calycina* (false boronia), *Thryptomene saxicola* (rock thryptomene) and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (balga). *Burchardia congesta* (milkmaids), *Caladenia caesarea* subsp. *maritima* (cape mustard orchid; critically endangered), a fern *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*, *Conostylis setigera* (bristly cottonhead), *Laxmannia sessiliflora* (nodding lily), *Lomandra micrantha* (small-flower mat-rush), triggerplants including *Stylidium affine* (queen triggerplant), *Stylidium megacarpum*, *Stylidium repens* (matted triggerplant) and sedges and grasses *Lepidosperma squamatum*, *Morelotia octandra* and *Neurachne alopecuroidea* (foxtail mulga grass) can also be found in the understorey.



Distribution

The community is restricted to Meelup Regional Park and Big Rock Reserve near Dunsborough.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: South West
DBCA District: Blackwood

Local Government Authority: City of Busselton

Habitat requirements

The community occurs in areas of exposed granite outcrops and isolated pockets of shallow gravelly-loam soils predominantly found lower in the landscape, but also in isolated pockets upslope where granite boulders dominate. It is associated with granite slopes that require maintenance of surface water flows and drainage patterns to limit erosion.

Indigenous interests

Traditional owner group: Wardandi Noongar

The area is covered by the South West Boojarah 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 South West Boojarah region is supported by the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation and umbrella group, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

Conservation status

State: Listed as a vulnerable 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 dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, too frequent fire, disturbance from recreational activities, and weed invasion.

Recovery plan

Development of a recovery plan is recommended for this community. Priority actions include increasing tenure security, regular dieback assessment and control, maintaining walk trails, weed control, and monitoring the impacts of fire.

Key references

Keating C. & Trudgen M. (1986). *A flora and vegetation survey of the coastal strip from Forrest Beach – Cape Naturaliste – Woodlands*. Unpublished report for the Department of Conservation and Environment.

Webb A. (2013). *The Flora and Vegetation of the Meelup reserve system*. Unpublished report for the Meelup Park Management Committee, Department of Environment and Conservation.

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