



## Russell Range mixed thicket complexes

### Summary description

The community occurs within the Russell Range system and was originally described in Beard (1973). It consists of an open mallee or shrub mallee-heath on the mid to upper slopes. Typical species are *Eucalyptus doratoxylon* (spearwood mallee), *Adenanthos oreophilus*, *Dampiera parvifolia* (many-bracted dampiera), *Dielsiodoxa oligarrhenoides*, *Chorizema nervosum*, *Acacia triptycha*, *Hakea pandanicarpa*, *Beaufortia raggedensis* (Mt Ragged beaufortia), *Daviesia grossa* and the endemic priority taxa *Banksia prolata* subsp. *archeos* (priority 2), *Beaufortia raggedensis* (Mt Ragged beaufortia; priority 2), *Rhadinothamnus rudis* subsp. *linearis* (priority 4) and *Gastrolobium tergiversum* (priority 2). Other priority flora include *Beyeria simplex* (priority 2), *Darwinia* sp. Mt Ragged (priority 2), *Dielsiodoxa propullulans* (priority 2), *Leucopogon apiculatus* (priority 3), *Styphelia rotundifolia* (priority 3), *Opercularia hirsuta* (silky-haired stinkweed; priority 2), *Scaevola brookeana* (priority 2), *Gastrolobium pycnostachyum* (Mt Ragged poison; priority 2) and *Kennedia beckxiana* (Cape Arid kennedia; priority 4), which occur mainly on the mid-lower slopes. *Anthocercis viscosa* (sticky tailflower) is common on granite on the south coast from Walpole to Cape Arid and occurs at its inland or eastern limit on Mt Ragged.



### Distribution

The community is restricted to the Russell Range system, east of Esperance in Cape Arid National Park, and an unnamed nature reserve.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: South Coast

DBCA District: Esperance

Local Government Authority: Shire of Esperance

### Habitat requirements

The community is confined to mountain slopes, peaks, gullies and drainage depressions on shallow soils of grey-brown sandy loam over (predominately) quartzite on Mount Dean, Brooks Peak, Mount Ragged, Mount Esmond and Woolgrah Hill.

## Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner group: Ngadju

A register of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites kept by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage lists Mount Ragged as a site of Aboriginal significance.

Native Title Services Goldfields is the native title representative body for the region.

## 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*.

National: This community is a component of the threatened ecological community 'Proteaceae Dominated Kwongan Shrublands of the Southeast Coastal Floristic Province of Western Australia', listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The community occurs within the West Kimberley National Heritage listed place, protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

## Threatening processes

The major threats to the community are dieback caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, too frequent fire, inappropriate recreational activities, and a drying and warming climate.

## Recovery plan

Development of a recovery plan is recommended for this community. Priority actions include developing a dieback control program with regular monitoring to detect early signs of infestation, implementing a dieback hygiene plan, and installing interpretation signs at the base of the walk trail.

## Key references

Barrett, S. (1996). *Biological survey of mountains of southern Western Australia* [Unpublished report]. Department of Conservation and Land Management for the Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

Beard, J. S. (1973). *Vegetation Survey of Western Australia. Vegetation of the Esperance and Malcolm areas, Western Australia: map and explanatory memoir, 1:250,000 series*. Vegmap Publications.

Hopkins, A. J. M, Keighery, G. J., & Marchant, N. G. (1983). Species-rich uplands of south-western Australia. *Proceedings of the Ecological Society of Australia*, 12, 15–26.

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