



Scott River Ironstone Association

Summary description

The community occurs in a winter-wet habitat on red clay to clay loam often over massive ironstone on the Scott Coastal Plain. It mainly comprises heaths, shrublands and thickets and is variously dominated by *Melaleuca preissiana* (moonah), *Hakea tuberculata*, *Kunzea micrantha* or *Melaleuca incana* subsp. Gingilup (priority 2), depending on the degree of waterlogging. The understorey is generally dominated by *Loxocarya magna* (priority 3). Most occurrences have very diverse annual flora of *Stylidium* spp. (triggerplants), *Centrolepis* spp., *Schoenus* spp., *Aphelia* spp. and other herbs. The community also contains a number of endemic and restricted taxa such as *Darwinia ferricola* (endangered), *Grevillea manglesioides* subsp. *ferricola* (priority 3), *Lambertia orbifolia* subsp. Scott River Plains (endangered) and *Melaleuca incana* subsp. Gingilup (priority 2).



Distribution

The community is restricted to ironstone soils on the Scott Coastal Plain, which lies between the Blackwood Plateau and the southern coast of Western Australia, east of Augusta.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Regions: South West, Warren
DBCA Districts: Blackwood, Donnelly

Local Government Authorities: Shire of Augusta Margaret River, Shire of Nannup


Habitat requirements

The community occurs in a winter-wet habitat on red clay to clay loam often over massive ironstone on the Scott Coastal Plain. This wetland vegetation is dependent on groundwater for its survival.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner groups: Bibulmun and Wardandi 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 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 critically endangered ecological community under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Threatened ecological communities are declared environmentally sensitive areas under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

National: Listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Threatening processes

The major threats to the community are vegetation clearing, grazing by introduced herbivores, weed invasion, hydrological change, too frequent fire, and dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora* species.

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. Priority actions include improving tenure security, hydrological studies and management, fencing, monitoring and treating dieback disease, and weed control.

Key references

Gibson, N., Keighery, G., & Keighery, B. (2000). Threatened plant communities of Western Australia. 1. The ironstone communities of the Swan and Scott Coastal Plains. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, 83, 1–11.

Groundwater Consulting Services Pty Ltd. (2007). *The Hydrogeology of the Southern and Scott River Ironstone Communities, South West Western Australia*. Unpublished report for the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Department of Parks and Wildlife. (2015). *Scott River Ironstone Association (update): Interim Recovery Plan 2015–2020* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 339).

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is current as at September 2023. The State of Western Australia and its employees do not guarantee that this publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.



For more information see the department's website www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions