



Southern wet shrublands, Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 2 as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)

Summary description

The community typically comprises shrublands or open woodlands. It occurs on seasonally inundated sandy clay soils that are restricted to small remnants on the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain. It has been recorded from Forrestfield to Chapman Hill. The community has moderate species richness with the occurrence of species reflecting the wetter nature of the sites. Typical and common native taxa in the community are the shrubs *Kingia australis* (kingia), *Pericalymma ellipticum* (swamp teatree), *Hakea ceratophylla* (horned leaf hakea), *Calothamnus lateralis*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium* (white myrtle), *Eutaxia virgata*, *Stirlingia latifolia* (blueboy), *Banksia dallanneyi* (couch honeypot) and herbs, rushes and sedges including *Dampiera linearis* (common dampiera), *Comesperma virgatum* (milkwort), *Stylidium brunonianum* (pink fountain triggerplant), *Thysanotus multiflorus* (many-flowered fringe lily) and *Mesomelaena tetragona* (semaphore sedge). The community also contains priority flora including *Isopogon formosus* subsp. *dasylepis* (priority 3) and *Grevillea brachystylis* subsp. *brachystylis* (priority 3). This community is also known as 'floristic community type 2' as originally described in Gibson *et al.* (1994).



Distribution

A few small occurrences remain along the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain around Busselton, Forrestfield and Mundijong.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Regions: South West, Swan

DBCA Districts: Blackwood, Perth Hills, Swan Coastal

Local Government Authorities: City of Busselton, City of Kalamunda, Shire of Capel, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale

Habitat requirements

The plant assemblage is dependent on the maintenance of local hydrological conditions. The wet flats or palusplain become waterlogged, forming small depressions and provide the community's winter-wet habitat.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner groups: Pinjarup, Wardandi and Whadjuk 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 Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), South West Boojarah ILUA, and Whadjuk People ILUA as part of the South West Native Title Settlement, which formally recognises Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of the south-west region. The ILUA regions are supported by the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation, Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation, Whadjuk 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*.

Threatening processes

Major threats to the community include land clearing, hydrological change, weed invasion, altered fire regimes, grazing by herbivores, dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora* species, and climate change.

Recovery plan

Development of a recovery plan is recommended for this community. Priority actions include fencing, monitoring the impacts of fire, controlling weeds and feral animals, assessing and controlling dieback, managing tracks, and systematic monitoring of floristics and condition of the community.

Key references

Gibson, N., Keighery, B., Keighery, G., Burbidge, A., & Lyons, M. (1994). *A floristic survey of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain*. Unpublished report for the Australian Heritage Commission prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation Council of Western Australia (Inc.).

Webb, A., Keighery, B., Keighery, G., Longman, V., Black, A., & O'Connor, A. (2009). *The flora and vegetation of the Busselton Plain (Swan Coastal Plain): A report for the Department of Environment and Conservation as part of the Swan Bioplan Project*. Department of Environment and Conservation.

Wilson, J. & Froend, R. (2010). *Vegetation monitoring Swan Coastal Plain (Bunbury, Busselton-Capel groundwater areas): A report to Water Smart Australia and the Department of Water* (CEM report no. 2010-9). Centre for Ecosystem Management, Edith Cowan University.

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