



Shrublands on southern Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones (Busselton area) (floristic community type 10b as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)

Summary description

This species-rich plant community is a seasonal wetland on ironstone sheet rock overlain by shallow loam soils on the Swan Coastal Plain and Whicher Scarp near Busselton. Much of the species diversity comes from annuals and geophytes (plants with an underground storage organ). Typical and common shrubs include *Kunzea rostrata*, *Pericalymma ellipticum* (swamp teatree), *Hakea oldfieldii*, *Hemiandra pungens* (snakebush) and *Viminaria juncea* (swishbush). *Aphelia cyperoides* (hairy aphelia) and *Centrolepis aristata* (pointed centrolepis) also commonly occur. Many taxa in the community are endemic to this unusual geology including a suite of threatened flora.



Distribution

The community spans a range of approximately 40km from Carburnup to Tuntunup.

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

Local Government Authority: City of Busselton


Habitat requirements

The local catchment for the surface and groundwaters maintains the winter-wet habitat. The community is dependent on maintenance of the local hydrological conditions.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner group: Wardandi Noongar

A register of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites kept by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage lists 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* as 'Shrublands on southern Swan Coastal Plain ironstones'.

Threatening processes

The major threats to the community are dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora* species, too frequent fire, weed invasion, hydrological change (declining groundwater levels), land clearing, and climate change.

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 managing dieback, fire and weeds, controlling grazing, monitoring and managing water levels and quality, monitoring flora, and seeking to increase tenure security.

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.).

Meissner, R. & English, V. (2005). *Shrubland association on southern Swan Coastal Plain ironstone (Busselton area) (southern ironstone association): Interim Recovery Plan 2005–2010* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 215). Department of Conservation and Land Management.

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