



# Shrublands on calcareous silts of the Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 18 as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)

## Summary description

The community is recorded from between Yalgorup National Park and Bunbury. It is species rich, consists of open low shrubs with a rich annual flora and is known from calcareous silt flats. A suckering form of *Acacia saligna* (orange wattle), *Melaleuca viminea* (mohan), *Melaleuca teretifolia* (banbar), *Hakea varia* (variable-leaved hakea), *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (balga) and *Leptomeria ellytes* are common in the shrub layer, with sedges including *Lepidosperma longitudinale* (pithy sword-sedge) and *Gahnia trifida* (coast saw-sedge), and a suite of herbs including *Meionectes tenuifolia* (priority 3) also common.



## Distribution

The community occurs over a range of 50km, with the southernmost occurrence located in Crown reserve managed by the City of Bunbury, and the northernmost located in Yalgorup National Park.

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

Local Government Authorities: City of Bunbury, Shire of Harvey, Shire of Waroona


## Habitat requirements

The community occurs on low lying calcareous saline flats on old saline lake beds that contain marine deposits. The habitat of this community is classified as a dampland, as it experiences seasonal waterlogging. The community is surrounded by woodlands on higher ground.

## Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner group: Pinjarup 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 Gnaala Karla Booja 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 Gnaala Karla Booja region is supported by the Gnaala Karla Booja 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

The major threats to the community are weed invasion, hydrological change, too frequent fire, grazing by introduced herbivores, and climate change.

## Recovery plan

Development of a recovery plan is recommended for this community. Priority actions include fencing the remaining remnants, monitoring impacts of fire, controlling weeds and rabbits, conducting hydrological studies, and monitoring the community's condition.

## Key reference

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.).

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