



Shrublands and woodlands of the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 20c as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)

Summary description

The community occurs mainly on the transitional soils of the Ridge Hill Shelf, on the Swan Coastal Plain adjacent to the Darling Scarp, but also extends marginally onto the alluvial clays deposited on the eastern fringe of the Swan Coastal Plain. It has been recorded between Stratton and Maddington. It generally comprises a shrubland or woodland of *Banksia attenuata* (slender banksia) and *Banksia menziesii* (firewood banksia), sometimes with *Allocasuarina fraseriana* (western sheoak), over a shrub layer that can include the species *Adenanthos cygnorum* (woolybush), *Hibbertia huegelii*, *Scaevola repens* var. *repens* (fan flower), *Allocasuarina humilis* (dwarf sheoak), *Bossiaea eriocarpa* (common brown pea), *Hibbertia hypericoides* (yellow buttercups) and *Stirlingia latifolia* (blueboy). A suite of herbs including *Conostylis aurea* (golden conostylis), *Trachymene pilosa* (native parsnip), *Lomandra hermaphrodita*, *Burchardia congesta* (milkmaids) and *Patersonia occidentalis* (purple flag), and the sedges *Mesomelaena pseudostygia* (semaphore sedge) and *Lyginia barbata* usually occur in the community.



Distribution

The community has been recorded between Stratton and Maddington.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Swan
DBCA Districts: Perth Hills, Swan Coastal

Local Government Authorities: City of Gosnells, City of Kalamunda, City of Swan

Habitat requirements

The community occurs mainly on the transitional soils of the Ridge Hill Shelf, on the Swan Coastal Plain adjacent to the Darling Scarp, but also extends marginally onto the alluvial clays deposited on the eastern fringe of the Swan Coastal Plain. The community's flora reflects the transitional landform and soil zone between the Scarp and the Swan Coastal Plain. Many of the plant species present in the community are more common on the Scarp. The assemblage also contains species commonly associated with marri - wandoo woodlands on heavy soils.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner group: Whadjuk Noongar

A register of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites kept by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage lists numerous sites of Aboriginal significance in the vicinity of this community's occurrences.

The area is covered by the Whadjuk People 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 Whadjuk region is supported by the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and umbrella group, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

Conservation status

State: Listed as critically endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and under the WA Minister Environmentally Sensitive Areas list in policy.

National: Listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as 'Shrublands and Woodlands of the eastern Swan Coastal Plain'.

Threatening processes

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

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 monitoring the flora, managing fire regimes, monitoring and managing dieback disease, controlling weeds, maintaining fences, and seeking to improve 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.).

Department of Environment and Conservation. (2006). *Shrublands and woodlands on the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain (community type 20c) Interim Recovery Plan 2006–2011* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 230).

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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions