



***Melaleuca huegelii* — *M. systema* shrublands of limestone ridges (floristic community type 26a as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)**

Summary description

The community is known from shallow soils over limestone or massive limestone ridges of Tamala Limestone between Yanchep north of Perth, and south of Perth near Lake Clifton. The community generally comprises species-rich thickets, heaths and scrubs dominated by *Melaleuca huegelii* (chenille honey myrtle), *Melaleuca systema* (coastal honey myrtle) and *Banksia sessilis* (parrot bush), commonly over *Grevillea preissii* (spider net grevillea), *Spyridium globulosum* (basket bush), and *Acacia lasiocarpa* (pajang). A suite of herbs commonly occurs under the shrub layer. The community is also known as 'floristic community type 26a' as originally described in Gibson *et al.* (1994).



Distribution

The community occurs on massive limestone ridges mainly between Yanchep, and south of Perth near Lake Clifton.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Swan
DBCA District: Swan Coastal

Local Government Authorities: City of Kwinana, City of Wanneroo; City of Cockburn, Shire of Gingin, Shire of Waroona


Habitat requirements

The community largely occurs on limestone ridges and outcropping associated with Tamala Limestone on the Cottesloe and Karrakatta soil units of the Spearwood dune system. This aeolianite (wind deposited) limestone is mainly composed of shells, fossils and quartz sands that formed ancient dune systems. This occurs intermittently on late Pleistocene ridges (1–2 million years old) that are roughly parallel to the coast on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner groups: Pinjarup, Whadjuk and Yued 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), Whadjuk People ILUA, and Yued 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, Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation, Yued 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 land clearing for resource extraction (limestone), weed invasion, too frequent fire, and grazing by introduced herbivores.

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 controlling weeds, monitoring flora following disturbance events, and seeking to improve tenure security.

Key references

Churchward H. M. & McArthur, W. M. (1978). *Darling System Landform and Soils*. Department of Conservation and Environment. Perth, Western Australia.

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.).

Luu, R. & English, V. (2004). *Melaleuca huegelii – Melaleuca systema shrublands of limestone ridges (Swan Coastal Plain Community type 26a – Gibson et al. 1994): Interim Recovery Plan 2004–2009* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 193). Department of Conservation and Land Management.

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