



Ferricrete floristic community (Rocky Springs type)

Summary description

The community comprises tall shrubland and has been recorded between Arrino and Eneabba, on irregularly inundated red brown sandy loams over ferricrete. It is generally dominated by *Acacia blakelyi*, *Allocasuarina campestris* and *Labichea lanceolata* subsp. *lanceolata*. Associated species include *Alyogyne hakeifolia*, *Borya sphaerocephala*, *Isotoma hypoc crateriformis* (Woodbridge poison), *Petrophile seminuda*, *Stylidium dichotomum* (pins-and-needles), *Thysanotus patersonii* and *Pterochaeta paniculata* (woolly waitzia).



Distribution

The community is restricted with a range of 45km between Arrino and south Eneabba.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Midwest

DBCA District: Turquoise Coast

Local Government Authorities: Shire of Carnamah, Shire of Three Springs

Habitat requirements

The floristic composition of the ferricrete community is assumed to be a response to soil/substrate types and depths. The community only occurs on infrequently inundated red and brown sandy loams over ferricrete soils. The ferricrete substrate is extremely restricted in distribution in the Eneabba region. The maintenance of hydrological processes in terms of both quality and quantity of water to the springs is essential to sustain the vegetation assemblages.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner group: Yamatji

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



Joint management of South Eneabba Nature Reserve, Wilson Nature Reserve, Wotto Nature Reserve, and two unnamed nature reserves is undertaken by the Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation and the State Government through the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement. The Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation represents the Traditional Owners and is the native title representative body for the Yamatji region.

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 hydrological change (groundwater abstraction), land clearing, grazing by introduced herbivores (rabbits), weed invasion, too frequent fire, and drying climate.

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 rehabilitation, monitoring of flora and dieback disease, developing strategies for weed control and fire management, seeking information about hydrological drivers, and controlling rabbits.

Key references

Department of Conservation and Land Management. (2004). *Ferricrete floristic community (Rocky Springs type): Interim Recovery Plan 2004–2009* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 154).

Griffin, E. A., Hopkins, A. J. M., & Hnatiuk, R. J. (1983). Regional variation in Mediterranean-type shrublands near Eneabba, south-western Australia. *Vegetatio* 52, 103–127.

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Department of Biodiversity,
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