



***Corymbia calophylla* – *Xanthorrhoea preissii* woodlands and shrublands, Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 3c as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)**

Summary description

The community occurs on heavy soils of the eastern side of the southern Swan Coastal Plain, generally between Bullsbrook and Stratham. The community is dominated by *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (balga). It also occasionally includes *Eucalyptus wandoo* (wandoo). The more common shrubs include *Gompholobium marginatum*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium* (white myrtle) and *Banksia dallaneyi* (couch honeypot), with herbs, grasses and sedges including *Burchardia congesta* (milkmaids), *Cyathochaeta avenacea*, *Neurachne alopecuroidea* (foxtail mulga grass), *Caesia micrantha* (pale grass-lily), *Mesomelaena tetragona* (semaphore sedge), *Morelotia octandra*, *Desmocladius flexuosus*, *Opercularia vaginata* (dog weed),



Sowerbaea laxiflora (purple tassels), *Lepidosperma* spp. and *Drosera menziesii* (pink rainbow) also common. The community is also known as 'floristic community type 3c' as originally described in Gibson *et al.* (1994).

Distribution

This community is found on the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain largely on the Pinjarra Plain and Ridge Hill Shelf extending from Bullsbrook south to Capel.

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

Local Government Authorities: City of Kalamunda, City of Swan, Shire of Capel, Shire of Dardanup, Shire of Murray, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Shire of Waroona

Habitat requirements

Marri dominated plant communities were probably some of the most common on heavy soils on the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain (Keighery and Trudgen 1992; Gibson *et al.* 1994). Gibson *et al.* (1994) recognised three distinct communities in this group. The floristic composition of these communities varies with rainfall, with the *Corymbia calophylla* - *Xanthorrhoea preissii* woodlands and shrublands occurring on the driest of the sites.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner groups: Pinjarup and 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 Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and Whadjuk People 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 and umbrella group, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

Conservation status

State: Listed as an 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 'Corymbia calophylla - Xanthorrhoea preissii woodlands and shrublands of the Swan Coastal Plain'.

Threatening processes

The major threats to the community are land clearing, hydrological change, too frequent fire, weed invasion, dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora* species, climate change, and grazing by 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. Recommended actions include monitoring flora and dieback disease, developing and implementing a fire management strategy, controlling weeds and rabbits, fencing, managing hydrology, rehabilitation, and seeking conservation tenure as required.

Key references

Barrett, S. (1996). *Biological survey of mountains of southern Western Australia* [Unpublished report]. Department of Conservation and Land Management for the Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

Department of Parks and Wildlife. (2016). *Montane Heath and Thicket of the South West Botanical Province, above approximately 900 m above sea level (Eastern Stirling Range Montane Heath and Thicket Community): Interim Recovery Plan 2016–2021* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 370).

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is current as at September 2023. The State of Western Australia and its employees do not guarantee that this publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

For more information see the department's
website www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions