



Sedgeland in Holocene dune swales of the southern Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 19 as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)

Summary description

The community is within wetland depressions (swales) occurring between parallel Holocene dunes, mostly located on the Rockingham-Becher Plain but also extending further north to Lancelin and south to Dalyellup. Typical and common native species in the community are the shrubs *Acacia rostelifera* (summer-scented wattle), *Acacia saligna* (orange wattle) and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (balga), the sedges *Machaerina juncea* (bare twigrush), *Ficinia nodosa* (knotted club rush) and *Lepidosperma gladiatum* (coast sword-sedge), and the grass *Poa porphyroclados*.



Distribution

The community occurs over a range of 265km north-south between Lancelin and Dalyellup.

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

Local Government Authorities: City of Rockingham, City of Wanneroo, Shire of Capel

Habitat requirements

The typical wetland in which this community type occurs is a dampland that becomes waterlogged in winter, and retains relatively high moisture near the surface of the soil profile in summer. The community occasionally occurs in sumplands, which have shallow surface water – generally less than 20cm for up to two months of the year. These sedgelands have relatively specific water regime requirements, but are relatively tolerant of seasonal and longer-term variations that reflect natural climatic patterns.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner groups: Pinjarup, Wardandi, Whadjuk and Yued 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 (ILUA) and the 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 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*.

National: Listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as 'Sedgeland in Holocene dune swales of the southern Swan Coastal Plain'.

Threatening processes

Major threats to the community include land clearing, weed invasion, too frequent fire, declining water levels and water quality, grazing by introduced herbivores, recreational activities (mainly unauthorised vehicle access), and climate change.

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, controlling weeds, managing fire and monitoring fire response, determining water level tolerances and maintaining hydrological processes, negotiating appropriate management of occurrences outside current reserves, managing recreational impacts, and surveying to identify potential new occurrences.

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 (2011). *Sedgeland in Holocene dune swales: Interim Recovery Plan 2011–2016* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 314).

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