



***Banksia attenuata* and/or *Eucalyptus marginata* woodlands of the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 20b as originally described in Gibson *et al.* 1994)**

Summary description

The community is found on a range of soil and landform units at the base of the Darling Scarp that are described in Churchward and McArthur (1978). The landforms and soils of the Darling System (Division of Land Resources Management, CSIRO, Perth, Western Australia). The community occurs largely on the Forrestfield unit (Ridge Hill Shelf), Guildford unit or at the confluence of Guildford with Forrestfield, but also occurs on the Southern River unit. The community is generally very species rich. Most occurrences of this community type are *Eucalyptus marginata* – *Banksia attenuata* woodlands but *Banksia* woodlands and heaths are also found, with *Mesomelaena pseudostygia*, *Morelotia octandra*, *Banksia dallanneyi* (couch honeypot), *Desmocladius fasciculatus*, and *Chamaescilla corymbosa* (blue squill) being common in the understorey. The community is also known as 'floristic community type 20b' as originally described in Gibson *et al.* (1994).



Distribution

The community spans a range of approximately 130km from Stratton in the north to Warawarrup in the south.

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

Local Government Authorities: City of Armadale, City of Gosnells, City of Kalamunda, City of Swan, Shire of Harvey, Shire of Murray, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Shire of Waroona

Habitat requirements

The community is found on a range of soils on the base of the Darling Scarp from Yarloop to Stratton. Soils are mainly yellow-orange and yellow sands. The community occurs largely on Ridge Hill Shelf or Guildford clays, or at the boundary of the two units.

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 the 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 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: This community is commonly a component of the 'Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community', listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Threatening processes

The major threats to the community are land 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 fencing, rehabilitating and monitoring the flora, determining hydrological requirements, developing and implementing a fire management strategy, controlling weeds, monitoring dieback disease, 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). *Banksia attenuata and/or Eucalyptus marginata woodlands of the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain' (Swan Coastal Plain community type 20b – Gibson et al. 1994): Interim Recovery Plan 2012–2017* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 328).

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Department of Biodiversity,
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