



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



**Biodiversity and
Conservation Science**

Metadata Statement

Threatened and Priority Ecological Community Data

**Threatened and Priority Ecological Community buffers and boundaries
layers**

Custodian

Species and Communities Program

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Description

Abstract: An ecological community is a naturally occurring assemblage of organisms that occurs in a particular habitat. Ecological communities may comprise various life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms. The scale at which ecological communities are defined will often depend on the level of detail in the information source; therefore no particular scale is specified.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) maintains a list of ecological communities which are threatened with the risk of collapse (TECs) or Collapsed, as well as ecological communities that may be rare or threatened but for which there are insufficient survey data to accurately determine their status, or are regarded as rare but are not currently Threatened (PECs).

Contact Information

Species and Communities Program

Biodiversity and Conservation Science

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Data

Boundaries layer: A boundary encompassing the ecological community occurrence. Please note:

- Mapped boundary data for a TEC or PEC occurrence is provided, where possible.
- Not all occurrences have mapped boundaries.
- The boundary of an ecological community does not imply the area that must be considered for environmental impact assessment. Rather, impact will depend on the community type and the nature of the impact.
- Boundaries are often approximate and ground truthing is required.

Buffers layer: A buffer is included around each occurrence of a TEC or PEC. Please note:

- The Buffer area is intended to represent an indicative area in which impacts should be considered.
- For ecological communities driven by hydrological processes, buffers are applied to ensure essential ecological functions are maintained and/or potential impact of nearby developments can be considered.
- Mapping inaccuracies are accounted for.

Geographical Extent

Western Australia

Data Currency and Status

Beginning Date:	01/01/1994
Ending Date:	Present
Maintenance and frequency:	Continual, quarterly
Metadata date:	July 2026

Access

Stored Data Format:	GIS shapefile
Coordinate System:	GDA_2020
Access Constraints:	This data is sensitive. Access to this dataset is regulated by the DBCA Species and Communities Program.

Data Quality

Positional Accuracy:	Polygon data of occurrences generally taken from accurate GPS location.
Attribute Accuracy:	The attributes are generally accurate. Variability may result from observer differences, or the level of verification given to data sources utilised from outside the Program.
Logical Consistency:	Consistency of the data varies between original data sources.

Completeness: Information on specific communities was obtained from regional, subregional or specific habitat surveys of floristic communities, invertebrate communities, wetland assemblages and communities of micro-organisms. The completeness of records varies by ecological community depending on the remoteness of its distribution and the survey effort within that area. Not all priority ecological community occurrences are recorded on our database. It is possible to have a TEC occurrence without corresponding data in our database.

Attribute List

Boranga OCC Boundary Active

Attribute name	Field Type	Values	Field Name and Description
OCC_NUM	Text (string)		Occurrence Number Boranga unique identifying number of the Occurrence (OCC)
OCC_NAME	Text (string)		Occurrence Name Name of the Occurrence (assigned by the administrators of Boranga)
SITE_NAME	Text (string)		Site Name An occurrence can have multiple Sites
WLD_STATUS	Text (string)	Collapsed Community Occurrence	Wild Status Status of the Occurrence
COMMU_NUM	Text (string)		Community Number Boranga unique community number
COMMU_NAME	Text (string)		Community Name
COMMU_ID	Text (string)		Community ID Community common ID
GEO_MODIFY	Text (string)		Updated Geometry Date Date geometry was last modified
GEOM_ID	Integer (64 bit)		Geometry ID
G_AREA_SKM	Decimal (double)		Geometry Area Polygon area in km ²
G_AREA_HA	Decimal (double)		Geometry Area Polygon area in hectares
WA_LEG_CS	Text (string)	BCA	Western Australian Legislative List
WACONSCODE	Text (string)	CR, EN, VU, CO, P1, P2, P3, P4,	Western Australian conservation status code
COMWLTH_CS	Text (string)	CR, EN, VU	Commonwealth conservation status code
OBS_DATE	Date		Observation Date The date of observation of the record
LOC_DESC	Text (string)		Location Description Detailed description of the OCC's location
LOCALITY	Text (string)		Locality Locality of the location of the OCC (nearest town/postcode).
BOUND_DESC	Text (string)		Boundary Description Detailed description of the OCC's boundary and how it was created

COORD_SRC	Text (string)	GPS, GIS Data, Derived from Map, Differential GPS, Aerial Imagery, Plot Data, Publication, Survey Report, Soil/Landform Map, Ground Survey, Waterbody/Hydrology Mapping, Specimen Record, Threatened and Priority Report Form, Other (specify in comments)	Coordinate Source How the location was determined
LOC_ACC	Text (string)	~5 - 10m, ~30 - 50m, ~300m, ~500m, ~1km, ~2km, ~10km, ~20km, ~50km, ~100km, Unable to determine, Not Assessed	Location Accuracy How accurate location is
OBS_METHOD	Text (string)	Opportunistic, Translocation, Historical (written), Historical (oral), Survey (specify type in comments), Monitoring (specify type in comments), Collection, Translocation monitoring, Other (specify in comments)	Observation Method Method in which this occurrence was observed
AREA_ASSES	Text (string)	Edge Survey, Full Survey, Partial Survey	Area Assessment Extent of survey
SURVEY_SQM	Text (string)		Area Surveyed The total area that was surveyed for this record (m ²)
IDENT_CRTY	Text (string)	Very High, High, Medium, Low, Unassessed	Identification Certainty How certain is this identification of the community (see Interpretation notes for definitions of these values)
OCC_SOURCE	Text (string)	ORF, Non-ORF (describe in comments)	Occurrence Source If this OCC is sourced from a ORF (occurrence report form) or not
OCC_STATUS	Text (string)	Active, Draft, Historical	Occurrence Status Status of the OCC record
OCC_MOD_DA	Text (string)		Occurrence Modified Date The date this OCC was last modified
REGION	Text (string)	Goldfields, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South Coast, South West, Swan, Territories, Warren, Wheatbelt	Region DBCA Region in which this OCC location occurs
DISTRICT	Text (string)	Goldfields Region, East Kimberly, West Kimberley, Gascoyne, Murchison, Turquoise Coast, Exmouth, Pilbara Region, Albany, Esperance, Blackwood, Wellington, Perth Hills, Swan Coastal, Donnelly, Frankland, Wheatbelt Region, Unknown	District DBCA District in which this OCC location occurs.

COMP_DEGRD	Decimal (double)		Completely Degraded Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Completely Degraded' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0.
DEGRADED	Decimal (double)		Degraded Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Degraded' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
GOOD	Decimal (double)		Good Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Good' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
VERY_GOOD	Decimal (double)		Very Good Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Very Good' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
EXCELLENT	Decimal (double)		Excellent Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Excellent' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
PRISTINE	Decimal (double)		Pristine Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Pristine' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
G_DATATYPE	Text (string)		Content Type Where geometry is sourced from
GROUP_TYPE	Text (string)	community	Group Type Which group (flora, fauna or communities) this occurrence belongs to

Boranga OCC Buffer Active

Attribute name	Field Type	Values	Field Description
OCC_NUM	Text (string)		Occurrence Number Boranga unique identifying number of the Occurrence (OCC)
OCC_NAME	Text (string)		Occurrence Name Name of the Occurrence (assigned by the administrators of Boranga)
SITE_NAME	Text (string)		Site name An occurrence can have multiple Sites
WLD_STATUS	Text (string)	Collapsed Community Occurrence	Wild Status Status of the Occurrence
COMMU_NUM	Text (string)		Community Number Boranga unique community number
COMMU_NAME	Text (string)		Community name
COMMU_ID	Text (string)		Community ID Community common ID
BUFF_VALUE	Decimal (double)		Buffer Value Size of the buffer applied to the boundary polygon (m)
GEO_MODIFY	Text (string)		Updated Geometry Date Date geometry was last modified
GEOM_ID	Integer (64 bit)		Geometry ID
G_AREA_SKM	Decimal (double)		Geometry Area Polygon area in km ²
G_AREA_HA	Decimal (double)		Geometry Area Polygon area in hectares
WA_LEG_CS	Text (string)	BCA	Western Australian Legislative List
WACONSCODE	Text (string)	CR, EN, VU, CO, P1, P2, P3, P4	Western Australian conservation status code
COMWLTH_CS	Text (string)	CR, EN, VU	Commonwealth conservation status code
OBS_DATE	Date		Observation Date The date of observation of the record
COORD_SRC	Text (string)	ORF, Non-ORF (describe in comments)	Coordinate Source If this OCC is sourced from a ORF or not
AREA_ASSES	Text (string)	Edge Survey, Full Survey, Partial Survey	Area Assessment Extent of survey
IDENT_CRTY	Text (string)	Very High, High, Medium, Low, Unassessed	Identification Certainty How certain is this identification of the community (see Interpretation notes for definitions of these values)
OCC_SOURCE	Text (string)	GPS, GIS Data, Derived from Map, Differential GPS, Aerial Imagery, Plot Data, Publication, Survey Report, Soil/Landform Map, Ground Survey, Waterbody/Hydrology Mapping, Specimen Record, Threatened and	Occurrence Source How the location was determined

		Priority Report Form, Other (specify in comments)	
OCC_STATUS	Text (string)	Active, Draft, Historical	Occurrence Status Status of the OCC
OCC_MOD_DA	Text (string)		Occurrence Modified Date The date this OCC was last modified
REGION	Text (string)	Goldfields, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South Coast, South West, Swan, Territories, Unknown, Warren, Wheatbelt	Region DBCA Region in which this OCC location occurs
DISTRICT	Text (string)	Goldfields Region, East Kimberly, West Kimberley, Gascoyne, Geraldton, Moora, Murchison, Turquoise Coast, Exmouth, Pilbara Region, Albany, Esperance, Blackwood, Wellington, Perth Hills, Swan Coastal, Donnelly, Frankland, Central Wheatbelt, Wheatbelt Region, Unknown	District DBCA District in which this OCC location occurs.
COMP_DEGRD	Decimal (double)		Completely Degraded Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Completely Degraded' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0.
DEGRADED	Decimal (double)		Degraded Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Degraded' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
GOOD	Decimal (double)		Good Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Good' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
VERY_GOOD	Decimal (double)		Very Good Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Very Good'

			condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
EXCELLENT	Decimal (double)		Excellent Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Excellent' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
PRISTINE	Decimal (double)		Pristine Percentage of the area of the Occurrence that is in 'Pristine' condition according to the Keighery Scale. Values in Pristine, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Degraded and Completely Degraded must total 100 or 0
G_DATATYPE	Text (string)		Content Type Where geometry is sourced from
GROUP_TYPE	Text (string)	community	Group Type Which group (flora, fauna or communities) this Occurrence belongs to

Data Interpretation

Migration Notes:

Migrated data for previous database to Boranga "Identification Certainty" has a value of "Very High" for previous identification status of "Identified", "High" for state listed TECs (WACONSCODE = CR, EN, VU), "Medium" for previous identification status of "Considered to be" and for state listed PECs (WACONSCODE = P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P), and "Low" for broadscale mapped Commonwealth listed TECs.

For boundaries that have not been mapped a 10m buffer has been applied around confirmed Site coordinates for the boundary layer and the buffer layer will contain a larger buffer encompassing all sites for the ecological community occurrence.

Identification Certainty:

Very High: identification confirmation using "Methods for survey and identification of Western Australian threatened ecological communities, including floristic community type (FCT) analysis.

High: confirmed identification by an expert for that community type.

Medium: identification being inferred with good evidence and therefore highly likely it is that community type.

Low: is used for broadscale mapped Commonwealth listed TECs.

Buffer Size

A default 500m buffer is assigned to a community boundary in order to create the buffer layer. The buffer size may differ based on community type and hydrology, and is intended to represent an indicative area in which impacts should be considered. Please refer to the BUFF_VALUE column in the buffer layer to see the buffer size for each occurrence.

Commonwealth Listed TECs

Some ecological communities are also listed by the Commonwealth government as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). These ecological communities may spatially overlap with those listed under the State's Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. With permission, DBCA provides data on behalf of the Commonwealth to support management outcomes. Ground-truthing is required to verify that a site meets the diagnostic characteristics, minimum condition and size threshold to be deemed the described TEC.

Mapping for the Commonwealth TECs is based on the Commonwealth's 'likely to occur' areas and represent the broad-scale vegetation map units most likely to contain the described ecological community. The ecological community may, however, occur outside of the 'likely to occur' areas, within the broader 'may occur' boundary (guidance found in the Commonwealth Conservation Advices). Therefore, the mapping represents the indicative present distribution of the ecological communities.

Commonwealth listed TECs include:

- Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, 'Banksia Woodlands' (listed as an Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act on 16 September 2016)
- Clay Pans of the Swan Coastal Plain (listed as a Critically Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act 27 March 2012)
- Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia, 'Kwongkan' (listed as an Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act 1 February 2014)
- Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, 'Wheatbelt Woodlands' (listed as a Critically Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act on 4 December 2015)
- Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community, 'Tuart woodlands' (listed as a Critically Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act on 4 July 2019)
- Empodisma peatlands of southwestern Australia (listed as an Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act on 7 September 2023)
- Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, 'Coastal Saltmarsh' (listed as a Vulnerable TEC under the EPBC Act on 10 August 2013)
- Honeymyrtle shrubland on limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion (listed as a Critically Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act on 15 November 2023)

Data Limitations

The results of the Species and Communities Program database searches do not represent a comprehensive list of the Threatened and Priority Communities within the locality in question. The comprehensiveness of the search is dependent on the amount of survey carried out within that locality, and relevant surveys being forwarded to the department. The database search results should only form part of a desktop study. A search which results in no records in a locality does not necessarily mean that there are no Threatened or Priority communities in that locality. It may mean that no surveys have been undertaken in that locality, that surveys were not undertaken appropriately, that survey results were not reported to the Department or that the data has yet to be incorporated into the relevant database. There may be many reasons for a null database search result.

Further information

- DBCA website for threatened species and ecological communities
<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/threatened-species-and-communities>
- Flora, Fauna and Ecological Community Data Searches:
<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/media/7002/download>
- Methods for survey and identification of Western Australian threatened ecological communities
<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/media/6161/download>
- Threatened and Priority Community Occurrence Report Form:
<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/media/1073/download>
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Report Form - Field Manual:
<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/media/1075/download>
- Conservation codes for Western Australian ecological communities:
<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/media/6199/download>
- Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA):
<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/ibsa#max%3D30%26sort%3DdateCreatedSort>
- EPBC Act 1999 Protected Matters Search Tool:
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool>
- EPBC Act List of Threatened Ecological Communities:
<https://environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publiclookupcommunities.pl>