

## FIRE INFORMATION NOTE | BANKSIA WOODLANDS OF THE SWAN COASTAL PLAIN



### Description, other names and Conservation Status

Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain are highly diverse communities with an overstorey of low banksia trees and dense understorey dominated by small shrubs, grasstrees and sedge-like plants.

Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain are listed as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under national legislation. Two subsets of this ecosystem are listed TECs at the State level: *Banksia attenuata* and/or *Eucalyptus marginata* woodlands of the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain (Endangered) and; *Banksia attenuata* woodland over species rich dense shrublands (Endangered).

### Where are banksia woodlands found?

Banksia woodlands are found on the Swan Coastal Plain from north of Jurien Bay to Dunsborough. Banksia woodlands occur on deep, nutrient poor sands of the Spearwood and Bassendean dune systems. Isolated occurrences of the ecosystem can also be found on deep sands within other forested landscapes outside of the areas protected under State and Federal listings.

### Ecology and biology

- Banksia woodlands provided important habitat for flora and fauna in this region, including many threatened species such as Carnaby's and forest red-tailed black cockatoos, chuditch and western ringtail possum; as well as many wildflowers unique to the south-west.
- Banksia woodlands are a fire-maintained ecosystem, which means fire helps to stimulate regeneration. However, they are also vulnerable to being burnt too frequently.
- There are many components to banksia woodlands, many of which have different responses to fire. To maximise conservation outcomes of this community, patches of burnt and unburnt habitat should be maintained within your property.

### What should I consider when undertaking fire mitigation activities?

- Plan for low intensity burns, during autumn or late spring, that create a mosaic of fuels and will not scorch canopy or kill trees so they can regenerate.
- Implement good hygiene measures to minimise risk of dieback spread during activities.
- Plan for post-fire weed control to assist regeneration after fire.
- If you are undertaking a planned burn for bushfire mitigation purposes then you are able to undertake burning at intervals greater than six years without an authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. However, where possible and without compromising any bushfire mitigation requirements, it is better to extend the period between burns to 15 years to assist in maintaining vegetation health.

### More information

**Threatened species management contact:** DBCA's Species and Communities Program:  
[speciesandcommunities@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:speciesandcommunities@dbca.wa.gov.au) or your local DBCA Regional or District office:  
[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/locations](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/locations)

**Fuel management on your land:** [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning/](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning/)