Unwooded freshwater wetlands of the southern Wheatbelt of Western Australia, dominated by Duma horrida subsp. abdita and Tecticornia verrucosa across the lake floor (Lake Bryde)

TEC Description
The community occurs in freshwater wetlands (Lake Bryde wetland system) of the southern wheatbelt of Western Australia. The habitat is characterised by intermittent inundation and sometimes holds little water for several consecutive years. The major components of the community and other biota depend on relatively fresh water and regular drying out of the clay and silt wetland bed for survival. In addition to Duma horrida subsp. abdita (remote thorny lignum) (threatened) and Tecticornia verrucosa (a samphire) across the lake floor, the wetlands support fringing open woodlands of Eucalyptus occidentalis (swamp yate) over Melaleuca strobophylla (a paperbark) dominated scrub.

Distribution
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Wheatbelt
DBCA District: Narrogin office
Local Government Authority: Shire of Kent

Habitat Requirements
This community type consists of clay-based playa (temporary) lakes that are typically surrounded by a portion of a rim of lunette dunes and woodlands. These lakes become inundated from a combination of rainfall and surface runoff from the catchment.

Indigenous Interests
An Aboriginal Sites Register is kept by the Department of Indigenous Affairs, and numerous significant sites are listed in the vicinity of the occurrence. The Traditional Owners are the Wudjari people.

Conservation Status
Listed as critically endangered under WA Minister Environmentally Sensitive Areas list in policy.
Threatening Processes
Increased inundation and salinization are the most significant threats to the community. Due to the increased volume of runoff and high ground water levels, inundation events are occurring more frequently and for longer periods. These events are resulting in increased salt loads and are adversely impact flora sensitive to salinity and to shallow groundwater tables.

Recovery Plan
An interim recovery plan has been produced for the community. It outlines the recovery actions required to reduce the threats to the community and to maintain or improve the overall condition of the community in the known locations, to help ensure the community’s long-term survival. These actions include continued vegetation and hydrological monitoring, managing water quality, revegetating the catchment, preserving genetic diversity and investigating the potential for translocation of key flora.

Citation

Key References


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