



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

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. (2020). Recovery plans and interim recovery plans <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities/wa-s-threatened-ecological-communities>.

Key References

Chow, W. (2013). University of Western Australia GEOS5502 Industry Placement Draft Report. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Kensington.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2020). Draft Lake Bryde Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment. Landscape Recovery Program: 2020-2040, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.

Hamilton-Brown S. and Blyth J. (2000). Interim Recovery Plan No. 92 for the Unwooded Fresh Water Lakes of the Southern Wheatbelt of Western Australia, dominated by *Muehlenbeckia horrida* subsp. *abdita* and *Tecticornia verrucosa* across the lake floor and, *Muehlenbeckia horrida* subsp. *abdita* 2001-2006. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Wanneroo.

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