



Calothamnus graniticus heaths on south-west coastal granites

TEC Description

The community is known from a narrow band parallel to the western shores of Geographe Bay near Meelup. The distinctive *Calothamnus graniticus* subsp. *graniticus* (one-sided bottle brush) (priority 4) forms a dense shrub layer with *Gastrolobium spinosum* (prickly poison), *Allocasuarina humilis* (dwarf sheoak) and *Dodonaea ceratocarpa*. Downslope smaller shrubs include *Boronia tenuis* (blue Boronia) (priority 4), *Chorizema aciculare* (needle-leaved chorizema), *Hibbertia hypericoides* (yellow buttercups), *Hibbertia spicata* ssp. *spicata*, *Phyllanthus calycinus* (false boronia), *Thryptomene saxicola* (rock thryptomene) and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (balga). *Burchardia congesta*, the orchid *Caladenia caesarea* ssp. *maritima* (which is a critically endangered species), a fern *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*, *Conostylis setigera* (bristly cottonhead), *Laxmannia sessiliflora* (nodding lily), *Lomandra micrantha* (small-flower mat-rush), trigger plants including *Stylidium affine*, *Stylidium megacarpum*, *Stylidium repens* (matted trigger plant) and sedges and grasses, *Lepidosperma squamatum*, *Tetraria octandra* and *Neurachne alopecuroidea* (foxtail mulga grass) can also be found in the understorey.



Distribution

The community is restricted to Meelup Regional Park and Big Rock Reserve near Dunsborough.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: South West

DBCA District: Busselton

Local Government Authority: City of Busselton

Habitat Requirements

The community occurs in areas of exposed granite outcrops and isolated pockets of shallow gravelly-loam soils predominantly found lower in the landscape, but also in isolated pockets upslope where granite boulders dominate. It is associated with granite slopes that require maintenance of surface water flows and drainage patterns to limit erosion.

Indigenous Interests

An Aboriginal Sites Register is kept by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. According to the Register, there are significant sites known within the vicinity of the community. The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), an umbrella group, covers the areas in which the community occurs. Traditional owner group: Wadandi.

Conservation Status

Listed as vulnerable under WA Minister Environmentally Sensitive Areas list in policy.

Threatening Processes

The major threats to the community are clearing for recreational activities; dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora* spp.; changes in drainage patterns, particularly on slopes and that can result in soil erosion; too frequent fire; and weed invasion.

Recovery Plan

A recovery plan is recommended for the community. Priority recovery actions include increasing tenure security, regular dieback assessment and control, maintaining walk trails, weed control, and monitoring the impacts of fire.

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

Keating C, Trudgen M. (1986). A Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Coastal Strip from Forrest Beach – Cape Naturaliste – Woodlands. An unpublished report for the Department of Conservation and Environment, Western Australia.

Webb A. (2013). The Flora and Vegetation of the Meelup reserve system. Unpublished report for the Meelup Park Management Committee. Department of Environment and Conservation, Busselton.

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