



Shrublands on southern Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones (Busselton area) (floristic community type 10b as originally described in Gibson et al. (1994))

TEC Description

This species-rich plant community is a seasonal wetland on ironstone sheet rock overlain by shallow loam soils on the Swan Coastal Plain and Whicher Scarp near Busselton. Much of the species diversity comes from annuals and geophytes (plants with an underground storage organ). Typical and common shrubs include *Kunzea rostrata*, *Pericalymma ellipticum* (swamp teatree), *Hakea oldfieldii* (priority 3), *Hemiandra pungens* (snakebush) and *Viminaria juncea* (swishbush). *Aphelia cyperoides* (hairy aphelia) and *Centrolepis aristata* (pointed centrolepis) also commonly occur. Many taxa in the community are endemic to this unusual geology including a suite of threatened flora. The community is also known as “floristic community type 10b” as originally described in Gibson N., Keighery B.J., Keighery G.J., Burbidge A.H. and Lyons M.N. (1994) “A floristic survey of the southern Swan Coastal Plain” (unpublished report for the Australian Heritage Commission prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation Council of Western Australia (Inc.)).



Distribution

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: South West
DBCA District: Blackwood
Local Government Authority: Busselton

Habitat Requirements

The local catchment for the surface and groundwaters maintain the winter-wet habitat. The community is dependent on maintenance of the local hydrological conditions.

Indigenous Interests

An Aboriginal Sites Register is kept by the Department of Indigenous Affairs and lists sites in the vicinity of occurrences. The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), an umbrella group, covers the areas in which the community occurs. Traditional owner group: Wardandi.

Conservation Status

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

Also listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The community name is 'shrublands on southern Swan Coastal Plain ironstones' under the EPBC Act.

Threatening Processes

The main threats to the community are dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora* species, clearing, inappropriate fire regimes, weed invasion, changes in hydrology (declining groundwater levels), excessive herbivore grazing, and a drying climate (prolonged summer drought stress).

Recovery Plan

An interim recovery plan has been produced for the community, and outlines the recovery actions required to reduce the threats and to maintain or improve the overall condition of the community in the known locations. Recommended actions include dieback, fire and weed management, grazing control, monitoring and managing water levels and quality, monitoring flora, and seeking to increase tenure security.

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

Gibson, N., Keighery, B., Keighery, G., Burbidge, A and Lyons, M. (1994) A floristic survey of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain. Unpublished report for the Australian Heritage Commission prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation Council of Western Australia (Inc.).

Meissner, R. and English, V. (2005). Interim recovery plan number 215 for the shrubland association on southern Swan Coastal Plain ironstone (southern ironstone association) 2005-2010. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Wanneroo.

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