



Shrublands on calcareous silts of the Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 18 as originally described in Gibson et al. (1994))

TEC Description

The community is recorded from between Yalgorup National Park and Bunbury. It is species-rich, consists of open low shrubs with a rich annual flora and is known from calcareous silt flats. A suckering form of *Acacia saligna* (orange wattle), *Melaleuca viminea* (mohan), *Melaleuca teretifolia* (banbar), *Hakea varia* (variable-leaved hakea), *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (balga) and *Leptomeria ellytes* are common in the shrub layer, with sedges including *Lepidosperma longitudinale* (pithy sword-sedge) and *Gahnia trifida* (coast saw-sedge), and a suite of herbs including *Meionectes tenuifolia* a priority 3 flora taxon also common. The community is also known as “floristic community type 18” 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B.J., Keighery G.J., Burbidge A.H. and Lyons M.N. (1994) “A floristic survey of the southern Swan Coastal Plain” (unpublished report for the Australian Heritage Commission prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation Council of Western Australia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) Regions: Swan, South West
DBCA Districts: Swan Coastal, Wellington
Local Government Authorities: City of Bunbury, Shires of Harvey, Waroona

Habitat Requirements

The community occurs on low lying calcareous saline flats on old saline lake beds that contain marine deposits. The habitat of this community is classified as a dampland, as it experiences seasonal waterlogging. The community is surrounded by woodlands on higher ground.

Indigenous Interests

An Aboriginal Sites Register is kept by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. According to the register, there are significant sites known in 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 groups: Pindjarup, Wadandi.

Conservation Status

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

Threatening Processes

The main threats to the community are clearing for infrastructure, too frequent fire, weed invasion, and damage to soil structure and vegetation due to trampling and off-road vehicles.

Recovery Plan

A recovery plan is recommended for the community. Priority recovery actions include fencing the remaining remnants, monitoring impacts of fire, weed and rabbit control, monitoring of the condition of community, and hydrological studies.

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.).

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