



Melaleuca huegelii — *Melaleuca systema* shrublands on limestone ridges (floristic community type 26a as originally described in Gibson et al. (1994))

TEC Description

The community occurs on skeletal soil on limestone ridge slopes and ridge tops north and south of Perth. The community comprises species-rich thickets, heaths and scrubs dominated by *Melaleuca huegelii* (chenille honeymyrtle), *Melaleuca systema* (coastal honeymyrtle) and *Banksia sessilis* (parrot bush) commonly over *Grevillea preissii* (spider net grevillea) and *Acacia lasiocarpa* (pajang). A suite of herbs commonly occurs under the shrub layer. The community is also known as “floristic community type 26a” 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B.J., Keighery G.J., Burbidge A.H. and Lyons M.N. (1994) “A floristic survey of the southern Swan Coastal Plain” (unpublished report for the Australian Heritage Commission prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation Council of Western Australia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

The community occurs on massive limestone ridges mainly around Yanchep, and south of Perth near Lake Clifton.

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

DBCA Districts: Swan Coastal and Perth Hills

Local Government Authorities: Cities of Kwinana, Wanneroo; Shires of Gingin, Waroona.

Habitat Requirements

The community largely occurs on limestone ridges and outcropping associated with Tamala Limestone on the Cottesloe and Karrakatta soil units of the Spearwood dune system. This aeolianite (wind deposited) limestone is mainly composed of shells fossils and quartz sands that formed ancient dune systems. This occurs intermittently on late Pleistocene ridges (1-2 million years old) that are roughly parallel to the coast on the Swan Coastal Plain.

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: Whadjuk, Juat and Pindjarup.

Conservation Status

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

Threatening Processes

The main threats to the community are land clearing for resource extraction (limestone), altered fire regimes, weed invasion, rubbish dumping, and grazing.

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. Priority recovery actions include seeking improved tenure security, weed control and implementing a program for monitoring flora following disturbance events.

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

- Churchward H.M and McArthur, W.M. (1978) Darling System Landform and Soils. Department of Conservation and Environment. Perth, Western Australia.
- 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.).
- Luu, R. and English, V. (2004). Interim Recovery Plan No. 193. *Melaleuca huegelii* – *Melaleuca systema* shrublands of limestone ridges (Swan Coastal Plain Community type 26a – Gibson *et al.* 1994). 2004-2009. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Wanneroo.

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