



# Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest

## Conservation Status

Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions is listed as an endangered ecological community under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

## Distribution

Found near swampy estuarine areas on grey black loams. Swamp Oak communities can vary from open forest to low woodland or reed-land with scattered shrubs. Species composition reflects the degree of waterlogging and salinity. On the drier edges in Sydney it intergrades with the endangered River-flat Eucalypt Forest and Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Flood Plains

The dominant tree species is Swamp Oak *Casuarina glauca* with eucalypts absent or rare. Common smaller trees are Paperbarks, *Melaleuca* species. In the understorey the ground layer is dominant and includes forbs, sedges and vines. Common species include *Carex appressa* (Tussock Sedge), *Gahnia clarkei* (Saw-sedge), *Lomandra longifolia* (Spiny-headed Mat-rush), *Phragmites australis* (Native Reed), *Persicaria decipiens* (Slender Knotweed), *Commelina cyanea* (Native Wandering Jew) and *Hypolepis muelleri* (Bats-wing Fern).

It is estimated that less than 30% of the original extent of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest remains along the NSW east coast from the Tweed lowlands in the north to Eden in the south. Ongoing major threats to the community include drainage and flood mitigation works, clearing, weed invasion and pollution from runoff.

## Where it is found in Fairfield

Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest is restricted to areas at Chipping Norton close to the Georges River. South-west of Howard Street it has been re-created on previously sand mined land.

## Threatened and regionally significant species

The vulnerable *Maundia triglochoides* is a water plant with long narrow leaves that occurs within this wetland community. It is now extinct from Sydney with Wyong the new southern limit.

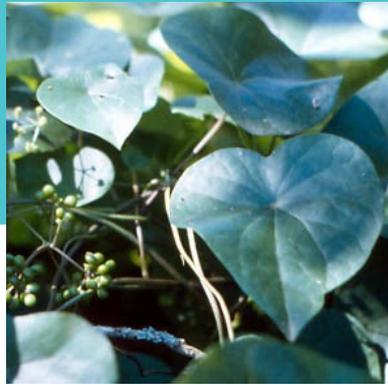
Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest provides habitat for the Glossy Black Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Squirrel Glider as well as several rare frog species.

### References:

OEH (2014) Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions accessed on 9/2/2016

James T (2015) Rare and Threatened Flora of Fairfield Local government Area.





## **SPECIES LIST**

The species listed below are the most common species found within the community.

### **Canopy**

*Acmena smithii*  
*Alphitonia excelsa*  
*Callistemon salignus*  
*Casuarina glauca*  
*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*  
*Glochidion ferdinandi*  
*Melaleuca ericifolia*  
*Melaleuca quinquenervia*  
*Melaleuca styphelioides*

### **Vines and climbers**

*Flagellaria indica*  
*Geitonoplesium cymosum*  
*Parsonsia straminea*  
*Smilax australis*  
*Stephania japonica* var. *discolor*

### **Grasses**

*Cynodon dactylon*  
*Imperata cylindrica* var. *major*  
*Oplismenus imbecillis*

### **Herbs**

*Alternanthera denticulata*  
*Blechnum indicum*  
*Centella asiatica*  
*Commelina cyanea*  
*Crinum pedunculatum*  
*Dianella caerulea*  
*Gahnia clarkei*  
*Hypolepis muelleri*  
*Lobelia alata*  
*Lomandra longifolia*  
*Persicaria decipiens*  
*Selliera radicans*  
*Viola banksii*

### **Shallow Aquatic**

*Baumea juncea*  
*Carex appressa*  
*Enydra fluctuans*  
*Isolepis inundata*  
*Juncus kraussii* subsp. *australiensis*  
*Juncus planifolius*  
*Juncus usitatus*  
*Maundia triglochoides*  
*Persicaria strigosa*  
*Phragmites australis*