



RIVER-FLAT EUCALYPT FOREST

Conservation status

Listed as an endangered plant community under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Distribution

River-flat Eucalypt Forest extends from Port Stephens to the Bega Valley along the east coast of Australia. It is found with recent alluvial soils on floodplains that contain silts, clay-loams and sandy loams. It mostly occurs at elevations below 50m above sea level although occasionally is found up to 250m above sea level.

Description

It is a water-dependant community that requires periodic flooding. The forest structure ranges from tall open forests (mostly along larger rivers) to woodlands and may inter-grade with patches of freshwater wetlands.

There are two main forms. Riparian forest or woodland along the banks closest to the watercourse dominated by *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) with occasional eucalypts. It intergrades with alluvial woodland away from the creek dominated by *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum), *Angophora* species (Apples), *Melaleuca* species (Paperbarks) and occasionally *Eucalyptus amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum). The understorey contains moisture-loving species including *Acacia* species (wattles), grasses, herbs, sedges, rushes and climbers. In protected sites along Cabramatta and Prospect Creeks, rainforest species may exist, such as *Backhousia myrtifolia* (Grey Myrtle), *Clerodendrum tomentosum* (Hairy Clerodendrum) and *Notelaea longifolia* (Mock Olive).

Threats

The main threats are clearing, alteration of flood regimes, small corridor width and weed invasion.

Where it is found in Fairfield

Found along most creeks including Prospect Creek, Orphan School Creek, Cabramatta Creek, Georges River, Reedy Creek and Green Valley Creek. Often only a narrow corridor has been retained. Where council reserves adjoin, enhancement is often possible through establishment of “no-mow” zones and natural regeneration. It may intergrade within these reserves with Cumberland Plain Woodland or freshwater wetlands.

Threatened Species found in this Community

Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. *viridiflora* (Native Pear) often exists at the edge of River-flat Eucalypt Forest particularly along Orphan School Creek. Regionally significant species associated with this community locally include *Eucalyptus baueriana* (Blue Box), *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Bosisto’s Box) and the small grass *Panicum pygmaeum* (Pigmy Panic).





The species listed below are the more common or typical species found within the community.

Canopy

Angophora floribunda

Angophora subvelutina

Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. *cunninghamiana*

Casuarina glauca

Eucalyptus amplifolia

Eucalyptus baueriana

Eucalyptus botryoides x *saligna*

Eucalyptus longifolia

Eucalyptus moluccana

Eucalyptus tereticornis

Smaller trees and shrubs

Acacia floribunda

Acacia parramattensis

Acmena smithii

Backhousia myrtifolia

Breynia oblongifolia

Bursaria spinosa

Melaleuca decora

Melaleuca linariifolia

Melaleuca styphelioides

Melia azedarach

Melicoytus dentatus

Ozothamnus diosmifolius

Solanum prinophyllum

Trema aspera

Ferns & herbs

Adiantum aethiopicum

Alternanthera denticulata

Centella asiatica

Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. *sieberi*

Commelina cyanea

Dichondra repens

Doodia aspera

Einadia hastata

Einadia trigonos

Epaltes australis

Euchiton sphaericus

Galium propinquum

Geranium solanderi

Hydrocotyle peduncularis

Hypolepis muelleri

Lomandra longifolia

Opercularia diphylla

Oxalis perennans

Persicaria decipiens

Phyllanthus gunnii

Phyllanthus similis

Plectranthus parviflorus

Poranthera microphylla

Pratia purpurascens

Pteridium esculentum

Sigesbeckia orientalis

subsp. *orientalis*

Vernonia cinerea

Veronica plebeia

Viola hederacea

Wahlenbergia gracilis

Grasses, sedges & rushes

Austrostipa ramosissima

Cymbopogon refractus

Cyperus gracilis

Dichelachne micrantha

Digitaria parviflora

Echinopogon caespitosus

var. *caespitosus*

Echinopogon ovatus

Entolasia marginata

Eragrostis leptostachya

Imperata cylindrica var. *major*

Isopeis inundata

Juncus usitatus

Microlaena stipoides

var. *stipoides*

Oplismenus aemulus

Oplismenus imbecillus

Panicum pygmaeum

Paspalidium distans

Themeda triandra

Brambles and vines

Cayratia clematidea

Clematis aristata

Clematis glycinoides

Eustrephus latifolius

Geitonoplesium cymosum

Glycine clandestina

Glycine microphylla

Glycine tabacina

Hardenbergia violacea

Pandorea pandorana

Rubus parvifolius

References: OEH (2011) River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions - endangered ecological community listing

OEH (2013) River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions - profile

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