Vegetation Communities on the Cumberland Plain

Vegetation on the Cumberland Plain is endangered. Within Fairfield City the following endangered plant communities can be found:

- ◊ Cumberland Plain Woodland
- ◊ Shale Gravel Transition Forest
- ◊ Western Sydney Dry Rainforest
- ◊ Moist Shale Woodland
- ◊ River Flat Eucalypt Forest
- ◊ Cooks River / Castlereagh Ironbark Forest
- ◊ Freshwater Wetlands
- ◊ Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest

Threatened communities are listed under both state and national legislation, the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995 and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Cumberland Plain Woodland

Examples of these listed plant communities can be found at :

Cumberland Plain Woodland
- ◊ Bossley Bushland Reserve
- ◊ Lalich Reserve
- ◊ Sartor Crescent Reserve
- ◊ Wetherill Park Reserve
- ◊ Powers Street Reserve
- ◊ Western Sydney Parklands

Shale Gravel Transition Forest
- ◊ Fairfield Showground along Smithfield Road
- ◊ Smithfield Cemetery

CooksRiver/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest
- ◊ Villawood Railway Station within the railway reserve along River Avenue
- ◊ Upslope of Smithfield Cemetery

Western Sydney Dry Rainforest
- ◊ Western Sydney Parklands
- ◊ Islands Bridge Reserve along Cherrybrook Street

River-flat Eucalypt Forest
- ◊ Sartor Crescent Reserve
- ◊ Allambie Road Reserve
- ◊ Islands Bridge Reserve

Freshwater Wetlands
- ◊ De Freitas Wetland
- ◊ Clarevale Wetland, Edensor Creek

Today less than 13% of the former extent of native vegetation in western Sydney remains. Of this only 8% is protected in bushland reserves either managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service or local councils.

Cumberland Plain Fauna

The Cumberland Plain is home to a variety of fauna. Most of the larger mammal species such as the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, wombats, and bandicoots can only be found in the larger remnants of bushland such as the Western Sydney Parklands. Smaller mammals have suffered a significant reduction or local extinctions, particularly native rats and mice that are often mistaken for feral species. Microbats and flying-foxes are surviving but remnant patches and creek corridors continuing to be fragmented and degraded limit habitat availability and movement across the Cumberland Plain.

The occasional Eastern Grey Kangaroo visits Fairfield City and sugar gliders have recently been recorded along Prospect Creek. Microbats are relatively common and Cabramatta Creek supports a large flying fox community.

Bird populations on the Cumberland Plain suffered a collapse in the 1970s which resulted in many local extinctions. Nevertheless, a variety of birds can still be seen in the bushland reserves of Fairfield.

The ongoing loss of bushland through clearing, fragmentation and degradation continue to be major threats to remaining flora and fauna. Protection, restoration and best practice management is essential to minimising further losses and collapse of ecological systems.

References:

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW) (2010) Cumberland Plain, Recovery Plan, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW), Sydney.

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

James, T (2016) Native Flora on Shale Soils of the Cumberland Plain, western Sydney—An Identification Guide

James T (2016) Native flora on shale soils of the Cumberland Plain—An Identification Guide

Common Plant Species

Canopy Species

Corymbia maculata
Eucalyptus moluccana
Eucalyptus tereticornis
Eucalyptus crebra
Eucalyptus fibrosa
Eucalyptus eugenioides
Melaleuca decora
In moister areas:
Angophora floribunda
Casuarina glauca
Melaleuca styphelioides

Small Tree/Shrub Species

Acacia decurrens
Acacia falcata
Acacia paramattensis
Breynia oblongifolia
Bursaria spinosa
Dillwynia sieberi
Indigofera australis
Lissanthe strigosa
Ozothamnus diosmifolius

Herbs and Grasses

Aristida vagans
Arthropodium milleflorum
Brunoniella australis
Dianella longifolia
Dianella revoluta
Desmodium species
Dichondra repens
Einadia species
Geranium homeanum
Goodenia hederacea
Lomandra filiformis
Lomandra longifolia
Microlaena stipoides
Themeda triandra