



SHALE GRAVEL TRANSITION FOREST

Conservation status

An endangered plant community listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995 and listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 together with Cumberland Plain Woodland.

Distribution

Found in northern parts of the Cumberland Plain in Richmond, Marsden Park and Windsor with small pockets in Liverpool, Fairfield and Bankstown.

It occurs in areas transitioning between shale and Tertiary alluvium laid down by ancient river systems. Ironstone gravels with a slightly sandy influence to the clay soils is typical of this community. It grades into Cumberland Plain Woodland as the influence of ironstone and older alluvial soils decline, and grades into Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest where the Tertiary alluvium is thicker.

Description

Shale Gravel Transition Forest has an open structure with *Eucalyptus fibrosa* (Broad-leaved Ironbark) and Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) the dominant canopy species. *Melaleuca decora* (a paperbark) is a common smaller tree. The shrub cover is scattered above a grassy/herb ground-layer. Typical shrubs include *Daviesia ulicifolia* (Gorse Bitter-pea), *Cryptandra spinescens* (Spiny Cryptandra) and *Lissanthe strigosa* (Peach Heath).

Threats

Threats include clearing and fragmentation for farming and urban development, unsuitable fire regimes, weed invasion and illegal dumping.

Where it is found in Fairfield

It is restricted to small isolated patches and often individual trees. Locations include Fairfield Showground, Smithfield Cemetery, Bossley Road Reserve, Yennora and Villawood.

Threatened Species found in this community

Acacia pubescens, *Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora* and *Pomaderris prunifolia*. *Grevillea juniperina* var. *juniperina* (Prickly Spider-flower) is locally extinct.

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.





SPECIES LIST

The most common or typical species found within the community are:

Trees

Corymbia maculata

Eucalyptus fibrosa

Eucalyptus moluccana

Eucalyptus tereticornis

Small trees

Acacia parramattensis

Melaleuca decora

Shrubs

Acacia falcata

Astroloma humifusum

Bursaria spinosa

Cryptandra spinescens

Daviesia ulicifolia

Dillwynia sieberi

Lissanthe strigosa

Grasses

Aristida vagans

Dichelachne micrantha

Entolasia stricta

Echinopogon ovatus

Echinopogon caespitosus var. *caespitosus*

Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*

Panicum simile

Paspalidium distans

Rytidosperma tenuius

Themeda australis

Herbs

Brunoniella australis

Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. *sieberi*

Desmodium varians

Dianella revoluta var. *revoluta*

Dichondra repens

Euchiton sphaericus

Glycine clandestina

Goodenia hederacea subsp. *hederacea*

Hardenbergia violacea

Hypericum gramineum

Laxmannia gracilis

Lepidosperma laterale

Lomandra filiformis subsp. *filiformis*

Lomandra multiflora subsp. *multiflora*

Opercularia diphylla

Oxalis perennans

Pomax umbellata

Poranthera microphylla

Pratia purpurascens

Tricoryne elatior

Vernonia cinerea var. *cinerea*

Wahlenbergia gracilis

References:

OEH (2011) Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Bioregion—endangered ecological community, assessed on 21/1/2016

James T (2015) Rare and Threatened flora of Fairfield Local Government area.