



# 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.

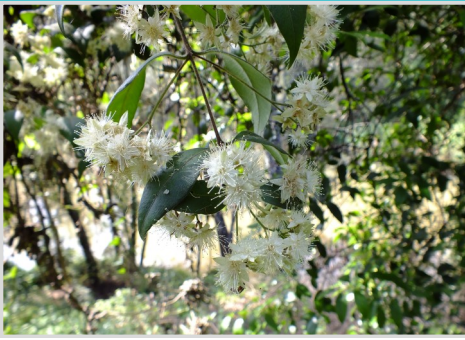
## Where it is found in Fairfield

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*

*Melicytisus 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

For more information on these initiatives contact Fairfield City Council on 9725 0222 or [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)  
Follow us on