



**FLORA & FAUNA
GUARANTEE**

NOMINATION NO. 363

ITEM NO. C1513

FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING

Warm Temperate Rainforest (Cool Temperate Rainforest Overlap, Howe Range) Community

Date of receipt of the nomination: 12 May 1995
Date of preliminary recommendation: 16 May 1995
Date of final recommendation: 1 February 1996

File No.:95/0949

Validity:

The nomination is for a valid item and the prescribed information was provided.

The nominated community is accepted by the SAC as a valid community because it is adequately defined and described according to accepted practice, and it is described in such a way as to be distinguished from all other communities.

The Warm Temperate Rainforest (Cool Temperate Overlap, Howe Range) Community is primarily warm temperate in its floristic composition although it does have some cool temperate characteristics which are evident in both the floristics and structure of the community. Structurally the community has a poorly developed vine component, a characteristic which is associated with Cool Temperate Rainforest in Victoria (Cameron 1992). Species usually associated with Cool Temperate Rainforest which occur in this community include Weeping Spleenwort *Asplenium flaccidum* ssp. *flaccidum*, Mountain Correa *Correa lawrenciana*, Slender Tree-fern *Cyathea cunninghamii*, Eastern Leatherwood *Eucryphia moorei*, Austral Mulberry *Hedycarya angustifolia*, Common Finger-fern *Grammitis billardierei*, Austral Filmy Fern *Hymenophyllum australe*, Forest Geebung *Persoonia silvatica*, Broad-leaf Panax *Polyscias sambucifolia* ssp. A and Spreading Fan-fern *Sticherus lobatus*.

This is the only rainforest community in Victoria that has Eastern Leatherwood as a character species; in some stands it may be the only canopy species present. Lilly Pilly *Acmena smithii*, Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* and Muttonwood *Rapanea howittiana* are other important canopy species. The community is notable for its poor liane structural development and its high fern diversity, with 20 species represented. All but one of the state's tree-ferns occur within the community. Vascular epiphytes are diverse with several species that are threatened, including Oval Fork-fern *Tmesipteris ovata* and Tangle Orchid *Plectorrhiza tridentata*.

Eligibility for listing as a community under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee

The nominated item satisfies at least one criterion of the set of criteria prepared and maintained under Section 11 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, and stated in Schedule 1 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 1991*.

Evidence that criteria are satisfied:

Sub-criterion 2.2.1 *The community is very rare in terms of the total area it covers or it has a very restricted distribution or it has been recorded from only a few localities.*

Evidence:

The community is limited to the unique climatic overlap between temperate and sub-tropical climatic zones in the gully systems which run south westward to Mallacoota Inlet from Howe Range. It has been recorded from only a few localities.

Background Information

- Although the threat of wildfire is unlikely to be significant, it could represent a potential threat to the community.
- At least 11 taxa considered threatened in Victoria, one of which is threatened nationally, have been recorded within the community (CNR 1994):
 - *Acacia subporosa* Bower Wattle (rare)
 - *Aphanopetalum resinosum* Gum Vine (vulnerable)
 - *Cyathea cunninghamii* Slender Tree-fern (rare in Victoria and Australia). Listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.
 - *Cyathea leichhardtiana* Prickly Tree-fern (vulnerable). Listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.
 - *Deparia petersenii* ssp. *congrua* Japanese Lady-fern (rare)
 - *Eucryphia moorei* Eastern Leatherwood (vulnerable)

- *Pittosporum revolutum* Rough-fruit Pittosporum (rare)
- *Plectorrhiza tridentata* Tangle Orchid (rare)
- *Polyscias murrayi* Pencil Cedar (vulnerable)
- *Sticherus flabellatus* Shiny Fan-fern (rare)
- *Tmesipteris ovata* Oval Fork-fern (rare)

Advertisement for public comment

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, the preliminary recommendation was advertised for a period of at least 30 days.

The preliminary recommendation was advertised in:

- “The Age” - on 22 November 1995
- “The Weekly Times” - on 22 November 1995
- “The Mallacoota Mouth” - on 24 November 1995
- The Government Gazette* - on 23 November 1995

Submissions closed on 29 December 1995.

Further evidence provided:

No public comments were received by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

No evidence was provided to warrant a review of the Scientific Advisory Committee's preliminary recommendation that the community is eligible for listing.

Documentation

The published information and research data provided to the SAC have been assessed. To the best of their knowledge, the SAC believes that the data presented are not the subject of scientific dispute and the inferences drawn are reasonable and well supported.

Final Recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee concludes that sub-criterion 2.2.1 has been satisfied and that no evidence exists to suggest that primary criterion 2.2 cannot be satisfied as a consequence of sub-criterion 2.2.1 being satisfied.

The Scientific Advisory Committee recommends that the nominated item be supported for listing on Schedule 2 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Selected references:

- Busby, J. R. (1992) *Climatic influences on rainforest distribution*. In: Gell, P. & Mercer, C. [Ed.] *Victoria's rainforests: Perspectives on definition, classification and management*. Department of Geography and Environmental Science. Monash Publications in Geography No. 41.
- Cameron, D. (1992) *A portrait of Victoria's rainforests: Distribution, diversity and definition*. In: Gell, P & Mercer, C. [Ed.] *Victoria's rainforests: Perspectives on definition, classification and management*. Department of Geography and Environmental Science. Monash Publication in Geography No. 41.
- CNR (1994) *Victorian Flora Species List (including vascular and non-vascular taxa)*. Flora Section, Flora and Fauna Branch. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria
- Duncan, B. D. & Isaac, G. A. (1986) *Ferns and allied plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia*. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Floyd, A. G. (1989) *Rainforest trees of mainland south eastern Australia*. Forestry Commission of New South Wales, Sydney.
- Keith, D. A & Saunders, J. M. (1990) *Vegetation of the Eden region, south eastern Australia: Species composition, diversity and structure*. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 1: 203-232.
- LCC (1974) *Report on the East Gippsland area*. Land Conservation Council, Victoria.
- LCC (1985) *East Gippsland area review*. Land Conservation Council, Victoria.

McMahon, A. R. G. (1987) *The effects of the 1982-3 bushfires on sites of significance*. Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands Environmental Studies Publication Series No. 41.

Peel, B. & Coram, J. (1993) *Rainforest of the Lower Snowy River*. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Orbost.

Smith, C. (1992) Rainforests and fire. *Park Watch*. Victorian National Parks Association. March 1992.

Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Date



12 March 1996

Dr. Malcolm Calder
Convenor