



**FLORA & FAUNA  
GUARANTEE**

## FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING

#### Semi-arid Herbaceous Pine -Buloke Woodland Community

**Date of receipt of the nomination:** 6 November 1996  
**Date of preliminary recommendation:** 9 July 1997  
**Date of final recommendation:** 1 September 1997

**File No.:** FF/06/0017

#### 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.

Semi-arid Herbaceous Pine-Buloke Woodlands is entirely restricted to public land in Victoria's northwest. Sites occur mostly in the Murray-Sunset, Wyperfeld and Hattah-Kulkyne National Parks with some sites in State Forest licensed for grazing.

Semi-arid Herbaceous Pine-Buloke Woodland is characterised by Slender Cypress Pine *Callitris gracilis* often in association with Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii* as a co-dominant over a groundlayer dominated by a range of herbaceous taxa including Australian Stonecrop *Crassula sieberiana*, Dense Crassula *Crassula colorata*, Hardhead Daisy *Brachyscome lineariloba*, Small Purslane *Calandrinia eremaea*, Austral Carrot *Daucus glochidiatus* and the introduced grasses False Hair Grass *Pentstemonis airoides* and Arabian Grass *Schismus barbatus*. The community lacks a shrub layer and native perennial grasses are not a major component of the community structure.

#### 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:**

**Criterion 2.1** *The community is in a demonstrable state of decline which is likely to result in extinction.*

##### *Evidence:*

The community is facing decline because of grazing pressure, erosion and lack of regeneration.

**Criterion 2.2** *The community is significantly prone to future threats which are likely to result in extinction.*

##### *Evidence:*

Remnants of the community are threatened by over-grazing, from kangaroos and/or rabbits leading to a lack of regeneration of Slender Cypress Pine and Buloke. In the past over-grazing from stock has also been a problem and the overall grazing pressure has led to soil erosion problems. In addition many areas have been heavily logged and now contain an ageing tree population at much lower than original densities.

**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:*

Semi-arid Herbaceous Pine - Buloke Woodland occurs within the Mallee region of northwest Victoria. The area is bounded by the Murray River in the north, Hopetoun in the south, Nyah in the east and the South Australian border in the west. It is entirely restricted to public land.

#### Additional Information

- The following taxa considered threatened in Victoria (CNR 1994, 1995) have been recorded within the community:
  - Slender Daisy *Brachyscome exilis* (Rare in Victoria).
  - Desert Sneezeweed *Cenitpeda thespidioides* (Rare in Victoria).
  - Grey Podolepis *Podolepis canescens* (Rare in Victoria).
  - Club-hair New Holland Daisy *Vittadinia condyloides* (Rare in Victoria).
  - Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii* (regeneration problematic in Victoria).

- Spotted Bowerbird *Chlamydera maculata* (endangered in Victoria, listed under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**).
- White-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris affinis* (Vulnerable in Victoria, listed under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**).
- Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri* (Vulnerable in Victoria, listed under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**).

There are also two Jewel beetle species known to occur in this woodland community near the southern end of their range.

- *Themognatha fortnumii* (Insufficiently known in Victoria).
- *Themognatha pascoei* (Insufficiently known in Victoria- F. Douglas *pers. comm*).

#### 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 23 July 1997
- "The Weekly Times" - on 23 July 1997
- "The Hopetoun Courier" - on 24 July 1997
- "The Sunraysia Daily" - 23 July 1997
- "The Rainbow Argus" - 24 July 1997
- The *Government Gazette* - on 24 July 1997

Submissions closed on 29 August 1997.

#### **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 has 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 on the evidence available the nominated item is eligible for listing in accordance with Section 11(1) of the Act because primary criterion 2.2 is satisfied.

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

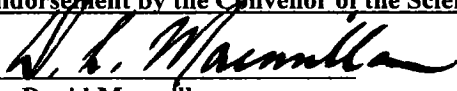
The Scientific Advisory Committee recommends that the nominated item be supported for listing on Schedule 2 of the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**.

#### **Selected references:**

- CNR (1994) *Victorian Species List (including vascular and non-vascular taxa)*. Flora Section, Flora and Fauna Branch, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria.
- CNR (1995) *Threatened Fauna in Victoria - 1995*. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria.
- Gullan, P. K., Cheal, D. C. & Walsh, N. G. (1990) *Rare or threatened plants in Victoria*. Department of Conservation and Environment, Melbourne.
- Sluiter, I. R. K. (*in prep.*) *The Pine and Buloke woodlands of semi-arid and dry sub-humid Victoria and adjacent areas: floristic definition, ecology and conservation status*. Report to Environment Australia, Canberra.

Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Date

  
Dr. David Macmillan  
Convenor

- 2 JUL 1998