

FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING

Forest Red Gum Grassy Woodland Community

Date of receipt of the nomination: 6 April 1992
Date of preliminary recommendation: 28 July 1992
Date of final recommendation: 17 November 1992

File No.: 92/2235

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 community is usually dominated by *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum), often with co-dominant *E. polyanthemus* (Red Box). *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box) occurs towards the coast and *E. bridgesiana* (But But) is often co-dominant on sandy sites. Beneath the eucalypts, there are often scattered small trees of *Acacia implexa* (Lightwood), and groves of *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Black She-oak) occur in some places. The herbaceous understorey is co-dominated by a variety of species. Dominant grasses include *Microlaena stipoides* and *Danthonia racemosa*, often with *Themeda triandra* and/or *Stipa rudis*. *Gahnia radula* is common on some sites. Dominant forbs include *Dichondra repens* (Kidney-weed) and *Hydrocotyle laxiflora* (Stinking Pennywort), plus an array of perennial and annual species.

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 1990*.

Evidence that criteria are satisfied:

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

Evidence:

The rarity of the community makes it susceptible to environmental catastrophes. Remnants of the community are threatened by stock grazing, weed invasion, eucalypt dieback, increasing isolation and recreational pressure.

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:

It is estimated that approximately 650-700ha of the community currently exists. The community occurs primarily on public land on a small number of sites, not all of which are managed primarily for conservation purposes. Intact remnants occur within the Moormung Flora and Fauna Reserve (400ha), Providence Ponds Flora and Fauna Reserve (30ha), Stratford Highway Park (65ha), Briagolong Forest Reserve (120ha), the Knob Recreation Reserve (50ha) and Blond Bay Wildlife Reserve (5ha). Smaller remnants, many of which are quite degraded, exist in streamside and bushland reserves.

The data presented on distribution and abundance are the result of comprehensive surveys and provide clear evidence that the community is very rare in terms of abundance and distribution.

Background Information:

- Species categorised by Gullan *et al* (1990) as rare or threatened in Victoria exist within the nominated community: *Caladenia reticulata* (rare), *Caladenia patersonii sens. lat.* (rare), *Desmodium varians* (rare), *Echinopogon caespitosus* (endangered), *Eragrostis leptostachya* (rare), *Eragrostis trachycarpa* (vulnerable) and *Polygala japonica* (vulnerable).
- The Forest Red Gum Grassy Woodland Community appears to be derived from the original savannah woodland, present at European settlement, following timber harvesting, infrequent burning and regular grazing.

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 30 September 1992

"The Bairnsdale Observer" - on 2 October 1992

"The Gippsland Times" - on 29 September 1992

Government Gazette - on 30 September 1992

Submissions closed on 6 November 1992.

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

The SAC also 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:

- Aldrick, J.M., Hook, R.A., van de Graaff, R.H.M., Nicholson, B.M., O'Beirne, D.A. and Schoknecht, N.R. (1988). *A study of the land in the catchment of the Gippsland Lakes*. Dept. of Conservation, Forest and Lands, Melbourne.
- Cheal, D.C., Lau, J.A., Robinson, R.W., Ellis, J.E. and Cameron, D.G. (in prep). *Vegetation survey and sites of botanical significance in the Melbourne Area*. Dept. of Conservation and Environment.
- Costermans, L. (1981) *Native trees and shrubs of south-eastern Australia*. Rigby, Sydney.
- Frood, D. and Calder, M. (1987) *Nature conservation in Victoria*. Study Report Vol.1. Victorian National Parks Association, Melbourne.
- Gullan, P.K. (1988) *Weeds in Victoria: Where are we? In: Weeds on public land - An action plan for today*. pp7-17. Weed Science Society of Victoria Inc. & School of Environmental Science, Monash University, Melbourne.
- Gullan, P.K., Cheal, D.C. and Walsh, N.G. (1990) *Rare or threatened plants in Victoria*. Dept. of Conservation and Environment, Melbourne.
- Gullan, P.K., Forbes, S.J., Earl, G.E., Barley, R.H. and Walsh, N.G. (1985) *Vegetation of south and central Gippsland*. *Muelleria* 6:97-145.
- Gullan, P.K., Walsh, N.G. and Forbes, S.J. (1981) *Vegetation of the Gippsland Lakes catchment*. *Muelleria* 4:333-383.
- LCC (1982) *Report on the Gippsland Lakes Hinterland area*. Government Printer, Melbourne.
- LCC (1983) *Final recommendations: Gippsland Lakes Hinterland area*. Government Printer, Melbourne.

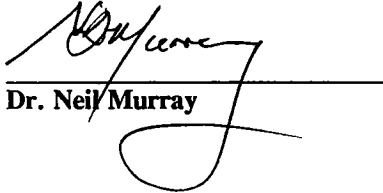
Lunt, I.D. (1991a) *Management of remnant lowland grasslands and grassy woodlands for nature conservation: a review.*
Victorian Naturalist 108:56-66.

Lunt, I.D. (1991b) *Nomination to de-list a species from Schedule 2 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.*
Eragrostis trachycarpa (Benth.) Domin, Rough-grain Love-grass. (unpublished nomination).

Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Date

11 January 1993



Dr. Neil Murray