



**FLORA & FAUNA  
GUARANTEE**

## FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING

#### Grey Box - Buloke Grassy Woodland Community

Date of receipt of the nomination: 6 November 1996  
 Date of preliminary recommendation: 3 December 1996  
 Date of final recommendation: 1 September 1997

File No.: FF/06/0014

#### 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.

Grey Box - Buloke Grassy Woodland is a tall woodland where Grey Box *Eucalyptus microcarpa* may be the structural dominant over a lower tree stratum of Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii*, ranging to a low open woodland dominated by Buloke with or without Grey Box as a co-dominant. A shrub layer is generally lacking although Golden wattle *Acacia pycnantha* is present at a number of sites. The groundlayer is dominated by grasses including Bristly Wallaby Grass *Danthonia setacea*, Squirrel-tail Fescue *Vulpia bromoides*, Soft Brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, Windmill Grass *Chloris truncata*, Common Wheat Grass *Elymus scaber* and in some cases Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* and Tussock-grass *Poa sieberiana*.

#### 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 inadequately reserved and tend to be small and isolated. The major threat to the community is through clearing although many sites are subject to severe disturbance from stock grazing. In addition maintenance of firebreaks adjacent to freehold boundaries and graded verges next to roadsides contribute to losses. Some sites occurring within State Forest are also subject to stock grazing, timber removal and mining.

**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:*

Grey Box - Buloke Grassy Woodland was formerly distributed in a band across dry sub-humid Victoria from Jilpanger south-west of Horsham to near Rutherglen in north-east Victoria. Remnant populations also exist on roadsides and private land near Melton, west of Melbourne. Sites occur on a variety of land tenures from almost exclusively private land and roadside reserves in north-east Victoria and at Melton, to Flora and Fauna Reserves and National Parks in south-west Victoria. The community has been substantially cleared for agriculture and is under-reserved. Remnants occur clustered near Dadswells Bridge in the southern Wimmera, Inglewood in the North Central Goldfields, Rutherglen in the north-east and in rare examples across its former range.

#### Additional Information

- The following taxa considered threatened in Victoria (CNR 1994) have been recorded within the community:
  - Hairy-tails *Ptilotus erubescens* (Endangered in Victoria).
  - Buloke Mistletoe *Amyema linophyllum* ssp. *orientale* (Vulnerable in Victoria).
  - Clover Glycine *Glycine latrobeana* (Vulnerable in Victoria and Australia).
  - Spreading Eutaxia *Eutaxia diffusa* (Rare in Victoria).

- Heath Spear-grass *Austrostipa exilis* (Rare in Victoria).
- Spurred Spear-grass *Austrostipa gibbosa* (Rare in Victoria).
- Inland Pomaderris *Pomaderris paniculosa* ssp. *paniculosa* (regeneration problematic in Victoria).
- Leafy Templetonia *Templetonia stenophylla* (regeneration problematic in Victoria).

#### 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 Bendigo Advertiser" - 21 July 1997
- "The Wimmera Mail Times" - 23 July 1997
- "The Stawell Times-News" - 22 July 1997
- "The Border Mail" - 23 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-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:**

- CNR (1994) *Victorian Species List (including vascular and non-vascular taxa)*. Flora Section, Flora and Fauna Branch, 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