



FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING

Red Gum Swamp Community No. 1

Date of receipt of the nomination: 27 May 1992
Date of preliminary recommendation: 28 July 1992
Date of final recommendation: 17 November 1992

File No.: 89/1946

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. To avoid possible confusion with other communities that include Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) in Victoria, the community is referred to as the Red Gum Swamp Community No.1.

The community varies from Woodland to Low Open-forest to Low Open-woodland in structure and has a tree stratum dominated by River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). In some examples, the trees have been cleared.

In wetter examples of this community, the ground stratum is mid-dense and dominated by Running Marsh-flower (*Villarsia reniformis*), Joint-leaf Rush (*Juncus holoschoenus*), Soft Bog-sedge (*Schoenus tesquorum*) and Common Spike-sedge (*Eleocharis acuta*). Rush Sedge (*Carex tereticaulis*), Purple Bladderwort (*Utricularia dichotoma*), Prickfoot (*Eryngium vesiculosum*), Rough Raspwort (*Haloragis aspera*), Slender Goodenia (*Goodenia gracilis*), Yellow Rush (*Juncus flavidus*), Small Trigger-plant (*Stylidium despectum*) and Floating Pondweed (*Potamogeton tricarinatus*) are frequent sub-dominants in such areas.

In drier examples and at the edges, Common Wallaby-grass (*Danthonia caespitosa*) and Brown-back Wallaby-grass (*Danthonia duttoniana*) dominate the sparse to mid-dense ground stratum, along with Blue devil (*Eryngium ovinum*) and Soft Bog-sedge (*Schoenus tesquorum*), except in gilgais where Veined Swamp Wallaby-grass (*Amphibromus nervosus*) dominates. Frequent sub-dominants include Common Sneezeweed (*Centipeda cunninghamii*), Lemon Beauty-heads (*Calocephalus citreus*), Poison Lobelia (*Lobelia pratoides*), Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchus squamatus*) and Paper Sunray (*Helipterum corymbiflorum*).

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:

One occurrence of the community is threatened by a proposed mining development. Potential impacts of such development on this occurrence of the community include loss of vegetation by removal of clay overburden and dredging of mineral sands.

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:

An extensive survey was undertaken of all areas where it was thought possible the community could occur. Of 63 potential sites examined, 7 areas were identified comprising a total of less than 150 hectares; Potter Creek Swamp (20ha), Glenelg River (16ha), Golton Creek (20ha), Burnt Creek (34ha), Golton Road (25ha), Mount William Creek (20ha) and Black Waterholes (8ha). Potter Creek Swamp and Black Waterhole represent the best examples of the community in terms of condition and lack of modification. Three of the seven sites where the community are known to occur are on private land.

The Red Gum Swamp community is very localised and likely to have always been restricted in distribution. In the past it may well have been somewhat more widespread on private land.

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

- The Red Gum Swamp Community has been nominated previously. The nomination was rejected because it was not accompanied by the prescribed information (SAC 1992).
- *Allocasuarina luehmannii* (Buloke) which occurs within the community has been listed on Schedule 2 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.
- A total of 12 plant species recorded within remnants are considered to be of regional significance (Beaglehole 1984):

<i>Agrostis aemula</i> (Blown-grass)	<i>Goodenia heteromera</i> (Spreading Goodenia)
<i>Juncus sarophorus</i> (Rush)	<i>Mimulus gracilis</i> (Slender Monkey-flower)
<i>Stipa bigeniculata</i> (Kneed Spear-grass)	<i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i> (Many-stemmed Bluebell)
<i>Craspedia globosa</i> (Drumsticks)	<i>Eclipta platyglossa</i> (Yellow Twin-heads)
<i>Mentha saturoides</i> (Creeping Mint)	<i>Myosurus minimus</i> (Mouse-tail)
<i>Agrostis orbicularis</i> (Misty Bent)	<i>Isolepis congrua</i> (Slender Club-sedge)
- Two species recorded within the remnants are considered to be of state significance (Gullan *et al* 1990):
Isolepis congrua (Slender Club-sedge) (vulnerable)
Microtis orbicularis (Swamp Onion-orchid) (rare)
- *Gallinago hardwickii* (Latham's Snipe) and *Porzana fluminea* (Australian Crane) which were recorded within the community are considered regionally significant.

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 public comment for a period of at least 30 days.

The preliminary recommendation was advertised in:

- "The Age" - on 30 September 1992
- "The Weekly Times" - on 30 September 1992
- "The Wimmera Mail Times" - on 30 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 reevaluation 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 for 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:

DCE (1991) *A list of threatened fauna in Victoria in 1991*. Procedural Document 02-20-0543-1. Dept. of Conservation and Environment, Melbourne.

- Beaglehole, A.C. (1984) *The distribution and conservation of vascular plants in south west Victoria*. Western Victorian Field Naturalists Club Association, Portland.
- Briggs, J.D. and Leigh, J.H. (1988) *Rare or threatened Australian plants*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.
- Burbidge, A.A. and Jenkins, R.G. (eds) (1987) *Endangered vertebrates of Australia and its island territories*. Report of the working group on endangered fauna of the the standing committee of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.
- Carr, G.W. (1984) *The vegetation of the Wimmera study area*. Unpublished report to the Land Conservation Council, Victoria.
- Emison, W.B., Beardsell, C.M., Norman, F.I., Loyn, R.H. and Bennett, S.C. (1987) *Atlas of Victorian Birds*. Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands and the Royal Ornithological Union, Melbourne.
- Frood, D. (1988) (unpublished) *Representation and protection of Victorian plant communities in conservation reserves*. Report to National Parks and Wildlife Division, Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands, Melbourne.
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- Gullan, P.K., Cheal, D.C. and Walsh, N.G. (1990) *Rare or threatened plants of Victoria*. Dept. of Conservation and Environment, Victoria.
- IUCN (1988) *1988 IUCN red list of threatened animals*. International union for the conservation of nature and natural resources, Geneva.
- LCC (undated) *Report on the south western area, District 2*. Land Conservation Council, Melbourne.
- LCC (1988) *Statewide assessment of public land use*. Land Conservation Council, Melbourne.
- McMahon, A.R. G. (1988) *Comments on the botanical aspects of the Wimmera Industrial Minerals Project Lease Area, Horsham, Victoria*. Ecological Horticulture Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.
- Meredith, C. and Black, D. (1988) *Fauna Survey WIM-150 Lease Area, Horsham*. Biosis Research Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.
- Meredith, C., Davies, R., Jaremovic, R. and Larwill, S. (1992) *Wimmera Industrial Minerals 150 Lease EES - Flora and Fauna Assessment*. Biosis Research Pty. Ltd., Victoria.
- Natural Systems Research Pty. Ltd. (1987) *Report on Flora, Fauna and Wetlands WIM 150 Development Lease Area*. Natural Systems Research Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.
- Ross, J.H. (1990) *A census of the vascular plants of Victoria*. National Herbarium of Victoria. Dept. of Conservation and Environment, Melbourne.
- SAC (1992) *Report on an invalid nomination for listing: Red Gum Swamp Community (Nomination No. 16)*, Scientific Advisory Committee, Flora and Fauna Guarantee, Victoria.
- Specht, R.L. (1972) *The vegetation of South Australia*. South Australian Government Printer, Adelaide.
- Willis, J.H. (1970) *A handbook to plants in Victoria Vol.1. Ferns, Conifers and Monocotyledons*, (2nd ed). MUP, Melbourne.
- Willis, J.H. (1972) *A handbook to plants in Victoria Vol.2. Dicotyledons*. MUP, Melbourne.

Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Date

20 July 1993



 Dr. Neil Murray