



**FLORA & FAUNA  
GUARANTEE**

**FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING**

**Limestone Grassy Woodland Community**

**Date of receipt of the nomination:** 24 October 1996  
**Date of preliminary recommendation:** 9 July 1997  
**Date of final recommendation:** 1 September 1997

**File No.:** FF/06/0020

**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 Limestone Grassy Woodland Community has an open woodland structure with the most common trees being Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis* and Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora*. Other species observed in this community include Snow Gum *Eucalyptus pauciflora*. There are occasional individuals of Kurrajong *Brachychiton populneus* and the nationally vulnerable East Gippsland endemic, Limestone Blue Wattle *Acacia caerulescens*. Scattered copses of small understorey trees and shrubs such as Lightwood *Acacia implexa*, Drooping Sheoke *Allocasuarina verticillata* and Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa* are uncommon and their distribution appears to be mediated by the frequency and intensity of fire.

The most abundant and structurally obvious life-forms are herbs. These are primarily graminoids with smaller forbs in the interstitial tussock spaces. The most common graminoids are Red-leg Grass *Bothriochloa macra*, Short-stem Sedge *Carex breviculmis*, with Blady Grass *Imperata cylindrica* and Spiny-headed Mat-rush *Lomandra longifolia* confined largely to the thinner soils around cave entrances, Hairy Panic *Panicum effusum*, Common Tussock-grass *Poa labillardierei*, Grey Tussock-grass *Poa sieberiana*, Long-leaf Wallaby-grass *Danthonia longifolia*, Velvet Wallaby-grass *Danthonia pilosa* and Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*. Other less common but usual species of the community are Windmill Grass *Chloris truncata*, Common Bog-sedge *Schoenus apogon* and Wild Sorghum *Sorghum leiocladum*.

**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:*

It is estimated that approximately 30% of the community remains, occurring largely as scattered fragmented remnants. A significant proportion of the community occurs on private land.

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

*Evidence:*

Threats to remnants include weed invasion, further fragmentation, inappropriate tree and shrub planting, grazing by stock and overgrazing by native herbivores, clearing for agriculture and inappropriate burning regimes.

**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 occurs in East Gippsland, being largely restricted to Devonian limestone in the Buchan and Murrindal districts, occurring on ridges and northern and western aspects of moderate to steep hills. It is estimated that approximately 1 700 ha remain.

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

**Additional Information**

Populations of rare or threatened species (CNR 1994) occurring in this community include:

- Limestone Blue Wattle *Acacia caerulescens* (Vulnerable in Victoria and Australia).
- Chinese Brake *Pteris vittata* (Vulnerable in Victoria).
- Wild Sorghum *Sorghum leiocladum* (Vulnerable in Victoria).
- Limestone Pomaderris *Pomaderris oraria* ssp. *calcicola*, (Rare in Victoria and Australia).
- Bluish Bulbine *Bulbine glauca* (Rare in Victoria).
- Common Spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *quadrivalens* (Rare in Victoria).
- Slender Tick-trefoil *Desmodium varians* (Rare in Victoria).
- Fisch's Greenhood *Pterostylis fischii* (Rare 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 Bairnsdale Advertiser" - 21 July 1997
- "The Snowy River Mail" - 23 July 1997
- The Government Gazette* - on 24 July 1997

Submissions closed on 29 August 1997.

**Further evidence provided:**

A submission was 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 criteria 2.1 and 2.2 are 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 Flora 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

Joint Commonwealth and Victorian Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee (1996) East Gippsland Comprehensive Regional Assessment. *Environment and Heritage Report*. Commonwealth of Australia.

Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Date



Dr. David Macmillan  
Convenor

- 2 JUL 1998