



**FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING**

**FLORA & FAUNA  
GUARANTEE**

**Warm Temperate Rainforest (East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces) Community**

**Date of receipt of the nomination:** 1 October 1992  
**Date of preliminary recommendation:** 6 April 1995  
**Date of final recommendation:** 18 August 1995

**File No.:**92/4218

**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. Upon the request of the nominator, the subject of this nomination was altered from Warm Temperate Rainforest Community to Warm Temperate Rainforest (East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces) Community.

The Warm Temperate Rainforest (East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces) Community is the most diverse rainforest community in the State with a low to moderate density of canopy species (additional expert opinion). The canopy is usually dominated by *Acmena smithii* Lilly Pilly, with *Rapanea howittiana* Muttonwood less dominant but often present. The most common emergent in margins or in gaps is *Acacia melanoxylon* Blackwood, with *Coprosma quadrifida* Prickly Currant-bush usually present. A high diversity of lianes (vines) is present with robust, wiry, cane-like and herbaceous climbers common and usually very conspicuous. Understoreys are dominated by tree ferns, with abundant, conspicuous and diverse ground fern flora, with several vascular epiphytes common.

Stands of Warm Temperate Rainforest (East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces) Community can be tall and well developed on smaller streams, although on larger streams the canopy tends to be uneven in height and patchy in distribution. This probably reflects the effects of canopy opening due to flood debris collecting in lianes and dragging understorey trees over. The gaps which are produced are rapidly filled by resprouting lianes and numerous secondary species (additional expert opinion).

The Warm Temperate Rainforest (East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces) Community is restricted to lowlands below 470m, where it grows on fertile alluvial flats of ephemeral creeks and the floodplains of permanent streams. This habitat is regularly flooded. The community occurs from the Mitchell River east to Mallacoota, with an isolated and disjunct occurrence in the Strzelecki Ranges at Morwell National Park.

**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 area and distribution of Warm Temperate Rainforest (East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces) Community has been significantly depleted since European settlement as a result of land clearing for agriculture and grazing. The community was once more extensive on the Cann, Snowy and Brodribb Rivers and possibly also on the Tambo River. All of the surviving river flat stands on Dowell Creek, Cann, Snowy and Brodribb Rivers have been reduced and most are small and declining.

Although there has been no clearing of stands over the last 50 years, their integrity and extent continues to decline.

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

*Evidence:*

Weed invasion represents the most serious ongoing threat to the community. The community is particularly susceptible to weed invasion because of the small size and linear nature of remaining stands, the replacement of fringing ecotones by farmland and the continued disturbance which is an inherent feature of floodplain landforms. Farming and logging occur within the catchments where remnants of the community exist.

As with many rainforest communities throughout Victoria, the Warm Temperate Rainforest (East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces) Community is threatened by fires of high intensity and frequency.

### **Background Information**

- 21 taxa considered threatened in Victoria, one of which is threatened nationally (Gullan *et al.* 1990, Flora Section CNR) have been recorded within the community:
  - *Symplocos thwaitesii* Buff Hazelwood (endangered) - listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.
  - *Korthalsella rubra* ssp. *rubra* Jointed Mistletoe (vulnerable)
  - *Livistona australis* Cabbage Fan-palm (vulnerable)
  - *Sambucus australasica* Yellow Elderberry (vulnerable) - listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
  - *Sicyos australis* Star Cucumber (vulnerable)
  - *Adiantum formosum* Giant Maidenhair, (rare)
  - *Adiantum hispidulum* Rough Maidenhair (rare)
  - *Beyeria lasiocarpa* Wallaby-bush (rare)
  - *Beyeria viscosa* Pinkwood (rare)
  - *Brachyscome petrophila* Rock Daisy (rare in Victoria and Australia)
  - *Dendrobium striolatum* Streaked Rock Orchid (rare)
  - *Libertia paniculata* Branching Grass-flag (rare)
  - *Marsdenia flavescens* Yellow Milk-vine (rare)
  - *Pittosporum revolutum* Rough-fruit Pittosporum (rare)
  - *Plectorrhiza tridentata* Tangle Orchid (rare)
  - *Pomaderris discolor* Eastern Pomaderris (rare)
  - *Ripogonum album* White Supplejack (rare)
  - *Samolus valerandii* Common Brookweed (rare)
  - *Scutellaria mollis* Soft Skullcap (rare)
  - *Uncinia nemoralis* River Hook-sedge (rare)
  - *Zieria smithii* Sandfly Zieria (rare)

### **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 24 May 1995
- “The Weekly Times” - on 24 May 1995
- “The Bairnsdale Advertiser” - on 22 May 1995
- “The La Trobe Valley Express” - on 23 May 1995
- “The Snowy River Mail” - on 24 May 1995
- “The Mallacoota Mouth” - on 26 May 1995
- The Government Gazette* - on 25 May 1995

Submissions closed on 30 June 1995.

### **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 2.1 and 2.2 are 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:**

- Cameron, D. (1992) *A portrait of Victoria's rainforests: Distribution, diversity and definition*. In: [Ed. Gell, P & Mercer, C.] *Victoria's rainforests: Perspectives on definition, classification and management*. Department of Geography and Environmental Science. Monash Publication in Geography No. 41.
- Gullan, P. K., Cheal, D. K. & Walsh, N. G. (1990) *Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria*. Department of Conservation and Environment, Melbourne.
- McMahon, A. R. G. (1987) *The effects of the 1982-3 bushfires on sites of significance*. Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands Environmental Studies Publication Series No. 41.
- Peel, B. & Coram, J. (1993) *Rainforest of the Lower Snowy River*. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Orbost.
- Seddon, G. & Cameron, D. (1985) Temperate rainforest. *Landscape Australia* 7(2): 141-51.
- Smith, C. (1992) Rainforests and fire. *Park Watch*. Victorian National Parks Association. March 1992.

**Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee**

**Date**

3 November 1995



**Dr. Malcolm Calder**  
**Convenor**