



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

Limestone Pomaderris Shrubland Community

Date of receipt of the nomination: 7 July 1989
Date of preliminary recommendation: 22 January 1991
Date of final recommendation: 22 May 1991

File No.: 89/3489

Validity:

The nomination is for a valid item and the prescribed information was provided.

The nominated community has been described in such a way so as to distinguish it from all other communities. It is a dense shrubland on steep slopes on skeletal marble-derived soils. It is dominated by the recently described species *Pomaderris oraria calcicola*, and also characterised by a unique assemblage of plants, including other rare species such as *Olearia astroloba*, *Helichrysum adnatum* and *Pultenaea densifolia*.

The Flora Branch of DCE has studied East Gippsland thoroughly and has identified this community as being very distinct and uncommon. Though the area it occupies is small, the community is not narrowly defined.

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:

Exploration and quarrying for marble are proposed in the area. These activities have the potential to severely damage the community, through removal of vegetation, substrate disturbance and tipping of overburden.

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 Committee is satisfied that the community has been recorded from only one area of Victoria, despite extensive studies of East Gippsland, and it is unlikely to occur anywhere else. It is unique because of its floral species composition and its limestone geology, which is also rare in the State.

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

Background Information

- *Pimelea flava* subsp. *dichotoma* has been recorded from the western part of the State only. This is an unusual place for it to occur.
- This community is one of the most concentrated areas of new species and subspecies that the DCE Flora Branch has identified.
- *Olearia astroloba*, an important member of the flora of the community, has also received the SAC's final recommendation for listing.

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 6 February 1991

"Bairnsdale Advertiser" - on 15 February 1991

Government Gazette - on 6 February 1991

Submissions closed on 8 April 1991.

Further evidence provided:

No public comments were received by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

No new 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, research data and additional evidence 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 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:

Briggs, J.D. & Leigh, J.H. (1988) *Rare or Threatened Australian Plants* 1988 revised edition. Special Publication No. 14. Aust. Nat. Parks & Wildlife Service, Canberra

Churchill, D.M. & de Corona, A. (1972) *The distribution of Victorian plants*. Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium, and Botany Department Monash University.

Gullan, P.K., Cheal, D.C. & Walsh, N.G. (1990) *Rare or threatened plants in Victoria* Dept. of Conservation and Environment, Melbourne

LCC (1977) *Report on the Alpine Study Area*. Land Conservation Council, Melbourne.

LCC (1982) *Report on the Alpine Study Area*. Rev. ed., Land Conservation Council, Melbourne.

Lander, N.S. & Walsh, N.G. (1989) *Olearia astroloba* (Asteraceae: Astereae), a new species endemic to Victoria. *Muelleria* 7(1): 123-125.

Walsh, N.G. (1990) The *Pomaderris oraria* complex in Australia. *Muelleria* 7(2): 271.

Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Date

19 June, 1991



Dr. Neil Murray