



COOKS RIVER / CASTLEREAGH IRONBARK FOREST

Conservation status

Listed as an endangered community under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and critically endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Distribution

Found in the Cumberland Plain in Fairfield, Richmond, Marsden Park, Windsor, and Liverpool.

Occurs on soil and sediments laid down by ancient river systems and typically found on ironstone gravels. As the influence of ironstone and older alluvial soils decline it becomes Shale Gravel Transition Forest. On sandier soils or Castlereagh Swamp Woodland it becomes Scribbly Gum Woodland.

Description

Open forest or woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus fibrosa* (Broad-leaved Ironbark) and *Melaleuca decora* (Paperbark). There is a dense shrubby understorey and sparse ground layer. Typical species include *Melaleuca nodosa*, *Daviesia ulicifolia* (Gorse Bitter-pea), *Cryptandra spinescens* (Spiny Cryptandra), *Dianella revoluta*, *Entolasia stricta* and *Lepidosperma laterale*.

Threatened Species found in this Community

Acacia pubescens (Downy Wattle) *Grevillea juniperina* var. *juniperina* (Juniper-leaved Grevillea), *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Pultenaea parviflora*, *Pomaderris prunifolia*, and *Persoonia nutans*.

Where it is found in Fairfield

There are a few small remnant patches remaining including the higher part of Smithfield Cemetery, along River Avenue at Villawood train station (protected within railway corridor) and Fairfield Showground. Scattered remnant trees of this community can be seen on old river terraces or benches close to Cabramatta and Prospect Creeks, and the Georges River around Lansvale and Chipping Norton.





The species listed below are the more common or typical species found within the community.

Canopy

Angophora bakeri
Angophora floribunda
Eucalyptus fibrosa
Eucalyptus longifolia
Eucalyptus moluccana

Smaller trees and shrubs

Acacia falcata
Astroloma humifusum
Boronia polygalifolia
Bursaria spinosa
Cassinia arcuata
Daviesia ulicifolia
Dillwynia parviflora
Dillwynia sieberi
Dillwynia tenuifolia
Exocarpus strictus
Goodenia hederacea subsp.
hederacea
Grevillea juniperina var. *juniperina*
Hakea sericea
Hibbertia empetrifolia
Kunzea ambigua
Leucopogon juniperinus
Leptospermum trinervium
Lissanthe strigosa
Melaleuca decora
Melaleuca nodosa
Micromyrtus minutiflora
Ozothamnus diosmifolius
Persoonia nutans
Podolobium ilicifolium
Pultenaea parviflora
Pultenaea villosa

Herb, ferns, sedges & twiners

Billardiera scandens
Calotis cuneifolia
Cassytha glabella
Cheilanthes sieberi
Dianella revoluta
Glycine clandestina
Gonocarpus tetragynus
Goodenia paniculata
Laxmannia gracilis
Lepidosperma laterale
Lomandra longifolia
Lomandra multiflora subsp. *multiflora*
Orthoceras strictum
Pomax umbellata
Poranthera microphylla
Rhytidosporum procumbens
Stackhousia viminea
Thelymitra pauciflora
Vernonia cinerea var. *cinerea*
Wahlenbergia gracilis
Xanthorrhoea media

Grasses

Aristida ramosa
Aristida vagans
Austrostipa pubescens
Austrostipa rudis
Dichelachne micrantha
Entolasia stricta
Eragrostis brownii
Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*
Panicum simile
Paspalidium distans
Rytidosperma tenuis
Themeda triandra

References:

Department of Environment & Heritage (2016) Cooks River/ Castlereagh Ironbark Forest threatened species profile

James T (2015) Rare and Threatened flora of Fairfield Local Government area.

James, T (2016) Native Flora on Shale Soils of the Cumberland Plain, western Sydney—An Identification Guide