



Agnes Banks Woodland

Conservation Status

Agnes Banks Woodland is listed as an endangered ecological community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.



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Description

Agnes Banks Woodland is a low woodland community with scribbly gum (*Eucalyptus sclerophylla*), narrow-leaved apple (*Angophora bakeri*) and old man banksia (*Banksia serrata*) as the dominant canopy trees. The diverse understorey shrubs include wallum banksia (*Banksia aemula*), *Banksia oblongifolia*, coneseeds (*Conospermum taxifolium*), wedding bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*), showy parrot pea (*Dillwynia sericea*) and nodding geebung (*Persoonia nutans*). Ground layer vegetation includes the heath Platysace (*Platysace ericiodes*), rice flower (*Pimelea linifolia ssp linifolia*)

and grass-leaf trigger plant (*Stylidium graminifolium*).

Distribution

The main community is at Agnes Banks on the east bank of the Hawkesbury River, on a small area of wind-blown sand dunes, which overlay the alluvial deposits from ancient river systems (up to 65 million years old).

Agnes Banks Woodland occurs in the Penrith local government area.

Examples to see

A good example of Agnes Banks Woodland can be seen at the Agnes Banks Nature Reserve, near Richmond.

Ecology

Agnes Banks Woodland is unique as an ecological community in western Sydney as it includes many species that are more commonly found in sandstone areas. Depending on drainage conditions, there is great variation within the community, from low woodland on higher ridges to sedge-type vegetation in low lying depressions. Agnes Banks Woodland is well adapted to periodic fires and most species are able to quickly regenerate from lignotubers, buds beneath the bark and seed released by fire.

Agnes Banks Woodland includes significant populations of the threatened species, *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Acacia bynoeana* and *Persoonia nutans*.

Threats

Agnes Banks Woodland has been extensively cleared for sand mining. The remaining remnants are threatened with further sand mining and clearing for rural/rural residential development.

Recovery and management

The recovery of this ecological community is being addressed as part of the Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Communities Recovery Plan, which is currently being prepared.

Agnes Banks Woodland originally extended over about 615 hectares. Today, it is reduced to 98 hectares or 16 percent of its original extent (NPWS 2002a, NPWS 2002b). High conservation value Agnes Banks Woodland remnants will be identified in the recovery plan and recommended for protection through

a range of mechanisms including reservation, environmental protection zoning and development control processes. Other protection measures can be through plans of management and voluntary conservation agreements. These measures will enable the remnants to be better managed for conservation and vegetation corridors to be formed. There should be an emphasis on conserving the natural variations in drainage conditions and maintaining buffer zones that are free of weeds. Where possible, natural fire regimes should be permitted to maintain plant diversity.

For further information contact

Central Threatened Species Unit, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220 Phone 02 9585 6678. www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

References

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NPWS (2002b) Interpretation Guidelines for the Native Vegetation Maps of the Cumberland Plain, Western Sydney, Final Edition, NPWS, Sydney.

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