

# MU 7 NEWNES PLATEAU NARROW-LEAVED PEPPERMINT – MOUNTAIN GUM – BROWN STRINGYBARK LAYERED FOREST

## □ CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS

Regional: No Match

State: Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forest

Number of Sites: 6 Average number of identified native species per plot: 33.7

## □ DESCRIPTION

A tall to very tall forest dominated by narrow-leaved peppermint (*E. radiata*) and brown stringybark (*E. blaxlandii*) with Blue Mountains ash (*E. oreades*) and mountain gum (*E. dalrympleana*) as occasional elements. The understorey is relatively open with *Lomatia*, *Leucopogon* and *Polyscias* being common members, but the ground cover may be quite dense. This community is distinctive on the plateau as it is taller and grassier than the surrounding shrub forests and woodlands.

The unit grades from Map Unit 27 onto wetter and more sheltered aspects, and this is reflected in the higher average cover scores of bracken fern (*Pteridium*) and snow grass (*Poa sieberiana*). The understorey is quite diverse, and has a diverse array of graminoids (*Dianella* and *Lomandra*) and herbs.

On sandy loam soils derived from Triassic era Narrabeen sediments at altitudes between 1000 metres and 1180 metres above sea level, although in a few places on the eastern side of the Newnes Plateau dropping to about 900 metres. Precipitation values are between 960 millimetres and 1100 millimetres *per annum*.

The community loosely compares to the Cool Montane Wet Forest of Tindall *et al.* (2004) and is most likely a member of the Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests of Keith (2004). However, further work may confirm suggestions that it is restricted to the Newnes Plateau on the enriched sandstone. Hardwood logging continues in this community in the Newnes State Forest. Bell (1998) confirms that there are no similar forests described in the adjoining Wollemi National Park.



## □ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	5	22	33	38	44	14.75	30	60
M1	5	3.84	6.04	20	9	4.18	5	15
M2	1	1	2	2	60		60	60
L1	5	0.10	0.44	0.5	33	9.75	20	45
L2	2		0.13	0.2	22.50	10.61	15	30

Note that not all sites in the map unit have structural data.

## □ FLORISTIC SUMMARY

### Trees

*Eucalyptus blaxlandii*, *E. dalrympleana*, *E. fastigata*, *E. oreades*, *E. radiata*

## Low Trees and Shrubs

*Boronia microphylla*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Lomatia myricoides*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Monotoca scoparia*, *Olearia myrsinoides*, *Personia myrtilloides*, *Polyscias sambucifolia*

## Ground Covers

*Amperea xiphioclada*, *Brunonia australis*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Dianella caerulea*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Dianella tasmanica*, *Gonocarpus teucrioides*, *Helichrysum leucopsideum*, *Helichrysum scorpioides*, *Hovea heterophylla* (includes *H. linearis*), *Hydrocotyle laxiflora*, *Hypericum japonicum*, *Joycea pallida*, *Lomandra filiformis*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Lomandra multiflora*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Opercularia diphylla*, *Patersonia sericea*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Poa sieberiana*, *Poranthera microphylla*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Senecio lautus*, *Solenogyne bellioides*, *Stackhousia viminea*, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Viola sieberiana*, *Wahlenbergia stricta*

## Vines & Climbers

*Billardiera scandens*, *Clematis glycinoides*

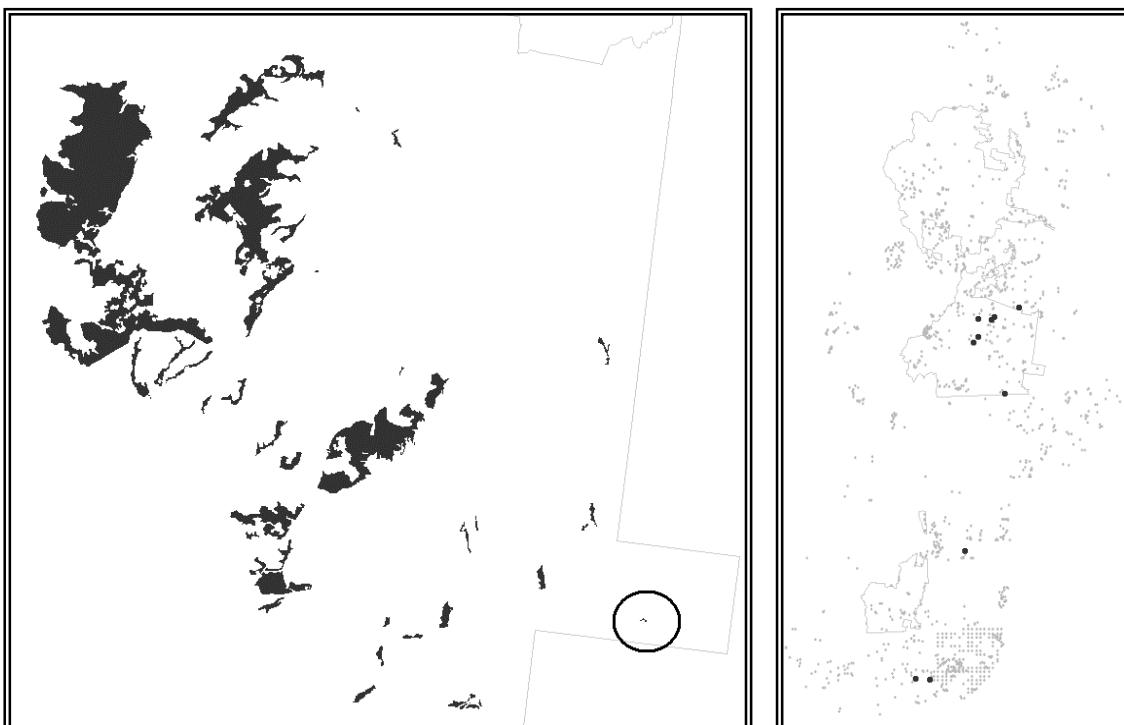
### □ KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES

**Easily recognisable features to assist in identifying this map unit are:**

- Typically occurs on deeper soils that may be enriched (by basalt residue or by interbedded shale lenses) and in more sheltered positions.
- Differs from MU27 in the presence of tall brown stringybark (*E. blaxlandii*) and by the groundcover having more 'softer-leaved' species such as ferns, *Opercularia* and *Hydrocotyle*.
- Mid storey mainly open, with some shrubs and saplings of the canopy.

### □ EXAMPLE LOCATIONS

Newnes Plateau, mainly between Blackfellowshand and Clarence, although the largest areas of occurrence are in the northwestern parts and the headwaters of Paddy's River.



### □ CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	42.24	1.71
B Medium	269.63	10.88
C High	2165.34	87.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>2477.21</b>	<b>100</b>

□ **THREATENED PLANT SPECIES**

Possible: *Acacia flocktoniae*, *Astrotricha crassifolia*, *Derwentia blakelyi*, *Persoonia hindii*, *Persoonia hirsuta*

□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Arrhenechthites mixta</i>	2	40.00	1	5.29	positive
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	2	80.00	1	21.49	positive
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	2	50.00	2	30.55	positive
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	3	60.00	2	3.44	positive
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	2	50.00	2	21.97	positive
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	2	70.00	2	27.59	positive
<i>Eucalyptus blaxlandii</i>	3	60.00	3	10.91	positive
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	3	90.00	3	13.23	positive
<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>	4	40.00	3	14.35	positive
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	2	50.00	2	27.67	positive
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	2	50.00	2	11.71	positive
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	2	70.00	2	27.02	positive
<i>Joycea pallida</i>	3	40.00	2	14.11	positive
<i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i>	2	70.00	2	18.28	positive
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i> subsp. <i>multiflora</i>	2	40.00	1	19.57	positive
<i>Lomatia silaifolia</i>	2	80.00	2	14.27	positive
<i>Monotoca scoparia</i>	2	100.00	2	26.62	positive
<i>Olearia myrsinoides</i>	2	40.00	1	1.60	positive
<i>Persoonia linearis</i>	2	50.00	1	34.56	positive
<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i>	2	40.00	2	6.41	positive
<i>Pomax umbellata</i>	2	50.00	2	20.77	positive
<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	2	70.00	1	23.02	positive
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	3	80.00	2	31.84	positive
<i>Solenogyne bellioides</i>	2	40.00	2	2.88	positive
<i>Viola sieberiana</i>	2	40.00	2	2.80	positive
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	3	70.00	2	35.93	constant
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	2	60.00	2	39.37	constant
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	3	90.00	2	39.53	constant