

MU 8 NEWNES SHELTERED PEPPERMINT – BROWN BARREL SHRUBBY FOREST

□ CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS

Regional: No Match

State: Montane Dry Sclerophyll Forests

Number of Sites: 6

Average number of identified native species per plot: 37.3

□ DESCRIPTION

Newnes Sheltered Peppermint – Brown Barrel Shrubby Forest is a tall forest (c. 35 metres) that occupies steep protected slopes and gorges that dissect the outer areas of the Newnes Plateau. The principal canopy species are *Eucalyptus piperita*, *E. radiata* and *E. fastigata* while *E. oreades*, *E. cypellocarpa* and *E. dalrympleana* subsp. *dalrympleana* occur less frequently. One of the characteristic features of this community is the moderately dense mid stratum of shrubs and small trees that includes *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Monotoca scoparia* and *Polyscias sambucifolia*. Moist sites include taller mesic species such as *Callicoma serratifolia*. The ground cover features a consistently occurring mix of graminoids such as *Lomandra longifolia*, the distinctive *Dianella tasmanica* and an abundance of small ferns such as *Pteridium esculentum* and *Sticherus flabellatus* var. *flabellatus*.



This community is not well described elsewhere in the catchment, although some components most closely match the Moist Montane Sandstone Forest of Tindall *et al.* (2004). It appears to be localised around the Newnes Plateau, and is distinguished from other *E. fastigata* forests in the region by some of the dry shrub species associated with the sandy colluvial soils. While clearing has not greatly diminished its original extent, accessible sites present evidence of repeated logging cycles. Bell (1998) indicates that there are likely to be small areas of similar forests in the adjoining Wollemi National Park.

□ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	5	21.6	36.4	40	31	11.40	20	50
M1	5	8.4	14.4	25	19	13.87	5	35
M2	4	1.5	4.5	6	21.25	13.15	10	40
M3	1	1.0	2.0	2	75		75	75
L1	5	0.3	0.9	2	24	15.17	10	40
L2	1		0.2	0.2	7		7	7

□ FLORISTIC SUMMARY

Trees

Eucalyptus fastigata, *E. radiata*, *E. piperita*, *E. cypellocarpa*, *E. oreades*, *E. blaxlandii*

Small Trees and Shrubs

Callicoma serratifolia, *Banksia cunninghamii*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Polyscias sambucifolia*, *Monotoca scoparia*, *Acacia obtusifolia*, *Acacia terminalis*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Poranthera microphylla*

Ground Covers

Pteridium esculentum, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Dianella tasmanica*, *Amperea xiphioclada*, *Gonocarpus teucroides*, *Microlaena stipoides* var *stipoides*, *Viola sieberiana*, *Gahnia sieberiana*, *Dianella caerulea*, *Blechnum nudum*

Vines & Climbers

Billardiera scandens, *Clematis glycinoides*

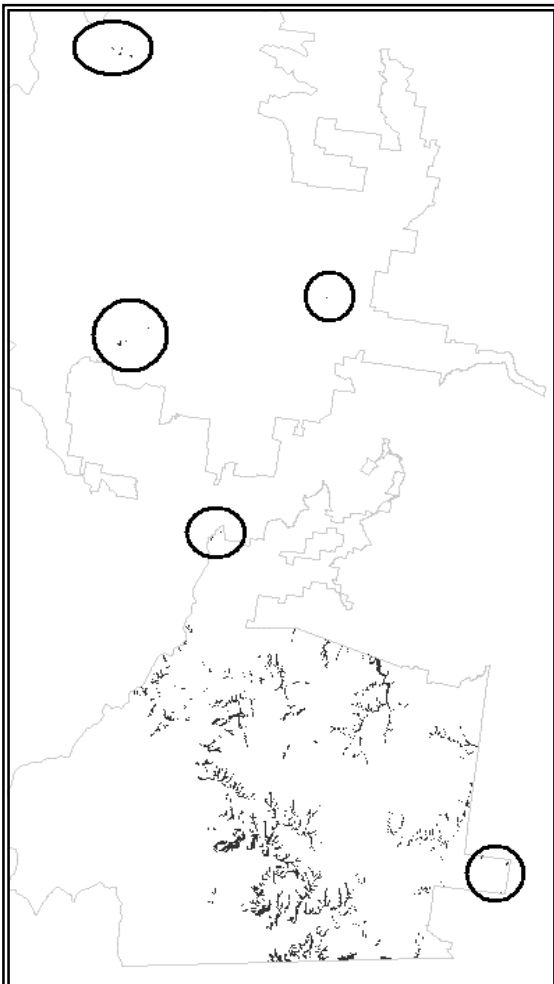
□ KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES

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

- Gullies on Newnes Plateau and protected escarpment slopes. Soils are predominantly sand-influenced loams.
- Tall brown barrel (*E. fastigata*), narrow-leaved peppermint (*E. radiata*) and Blue Mountains ash (*E. oreades*)
- Mixed shrub understorey of wattles (*Acacia* spp.), tea tree (*Leptospermum* spp.) and black wattle (*Callicoma serratifolia*).
- A ferny understorey, mostly bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*).

□ EXAMPLE LOCATIONS

Spanish Steps; Gullies below Lost World; Hairpin Gully at Blackfellowshand; Newnes State Forest; Mount Genowlan; Mount Marsden.



□ **CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	996.38	46.20
B Medium	810.90	37.60
C High	349.61	16.21
Total	2156.89	100

□ **THREATENED PLANT SPECIES**

Definite: *Derwentia blakelyi*, *Prostanthera stricta*

Possible: *Euphrasia bowdeniae*, *Grammitis stenophylla*, *Haloragodendron lucasii*, *Lastreopsis hispida*, *Pultenaea glabra*

□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Acacia obtusifolia</i>	2	46.15	2	12.38	positive
<i>Amperea xiphoclada</i>	2	92.31	2	8.28	positive
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	2	69.23	1	21.46	positive
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	2	38.46	2	4.82	positive
<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>	3	53.85	1	1.12	positive
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	2	46.15	2	30.55	positive
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	2	69.23	2	21.70	positive
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	2	38.46	2	7.55	positive
<i>Dracophyllum secundum</i>	2	38.46	1	0.40	positive
<i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i>	3	46.15	4	6.91	positive
<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>	3	84.62	3	9.24	positive
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	3	76.92	3	13.18	positive
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	3	46.15	1	2.25	positive
<i>Haloragis exalata</i>	1	7.69	0	0.00	positive
<i>Hibbertia saligna</i>	3	15.38	0	0.00	positive
<i>Hymenophyllum pumilum</i>	1	7.69	0	0.00	positive
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	3	69.23	2	7.47	positive
<i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i>	2	92.31	2	17.92	positive
<i>Lobelia dentata</i>	1	7.69	0	0.00	positive
<i>Lomatia silaifolia</i>	2	38.46	2	14.55	positive
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	2	53.85	2	26.53	positive
<i>Monotoca scoparia</i>	2	38.46	2	27.08	positive
<i>Petrophile pedunculata</i>	1	7.69	0	0.00	positive
<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i>	2	61.53	2	6.10	positive
<i>Prostanthera linearis</i>	2	7.69	0	0.00	positive
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	3	92.31	2	31.59	positive
<i>Sticherus flabellatus</i> var. <i>flabellatus</i>	2	38.46	2	0.40	positive
<i>Stylidium productum</i>	2	38.46	2	1.84	positive
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	2	38.46	2	36.17	constant
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	2	84.62	2	39.07	constant
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	2	15.38	2	40.19	negative