

# MU 26 NEWNES PLATEAU NARROW-LEAVED PEPPERMINT – SILVERTOP ASH LAYERED OPEN FOREST

## □ CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS

Regional: no matching type is given in Tindall *et al.* (2004)

State: Sydney Montane Dry Sclerophyll Forest

Number of Sites: 17      Average number of identified native species per plot: 36.7

## □ DESCRIPTION

A highly variable eucalypt forest and woodland found on the Newnes Plateau. This map unit unites a range of similar sclerophyllous shrub dominant assemblages found on shallow soils. The shrub layer is diverse and moderately dense and is dominated by *Proteaceae*, legumes and *Boronia*. The tree species vary with soil depth and appear as identifiable combinations in the field. In gentle depressions (Map Unit 26a) a combination of twisted white-stemmed gums are prominent such as *E. mannifera*, *E. sclerophylla*, and *E. dalrympleana* often with *E. dives*. More commonly the ridges support a forest that is taller with *E. blaxlandii*, *E. radiata* and *E. sieberi* replacing the former species (Map Unit 26). The conspicuous straight white stems of *E. oreades* are inconsistently found throughout this map unit.

The lowest storey varies in its density, but is usually of moderate cover, dominated by tussock grasses (*Austrostipa*, *Poa* and *Joycea*) and graminoids such as lomandras, *Patersonia* and *Dianella*. A diverse range of small herbs also occupies the groundcover stratum. The diversity leads to a number of identifiable layers in the structure, which it appears is more pronounced with increasing time since fire.

Found on the Triassic era Narrabeen sandstones, or in places on talus derived from this, it is found at altitudes of 900 metres to 1180 metres above sea level and mean annual rainfall of similar figures. The grassiness of this map unit and the composition of the canopy is suggestive that the sandstone soils plateau may be enriched by a long eroded basalt or shale cap. Alternatively it may relate solely to elevation.



The mapping unit is only loosely related to the Blue Mountains Ridgetop Forest Ridge Forest of Tindall *et al.* (2004) and the Sydney Montane Dry Sclerophyll Forests of Keith (2004). With further sampling this map unit is likely to be subdivided into its component canopy dominants, and with both recognised as stand alone regional communities. The distribution of the unit appears to be restricted to the Newnes Plateau and other small areas of high elevation enriched sandstone soils between Blackheath and Mount Victoria. These forests are poorly reserved only small areas are found within the adjoining Wollemi National Park (Bell 1998).

## □ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
E	1	25	30	30	2		2	2
T	15	12	23.87	45	30.13	14.05	10	60
M1	15	1.65	4.35	12	25.80	19.63	2	70
M2	8	0.75	1.59	4.5	25.38	18.16	3	60
M3	2	0.35	1.05	1.5	12.50	10.61	5	20
L1	15	0.10	0.49	1	30.67	22.19	5	70
L2	1		0.10	0.1	30		30	30

## □ **FLORISTIC SUMMARY**

### **Trees (includes possible Emergents)**

*Eucalyptus blaxlandii*, *E. dives*, *E. oreades*, *E. piperita*, *E. radiata*, *E. sieberi*

### **Low Trees and Shrubs**

*Acacia terminalis*, *Banksia cunninghamii*, *Boronia microphylla*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *Hakea dactyloides* (includes *H. laevipes*), *Isopogon anemonifolius*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Monotoca scoparia*, *Persoonia myrtilloides*, *Petrophile pulchella*, *Pimelea linifolia*

### **Ground Covers**

*Amperea xiphioclada*, *Austrostipa pubescens*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Dampiera stricta*, *Dianella caerulea*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Gonocarpus teucroides*, *Goodenia bellidifolia*, *Hovea heterophylla* (includes *H. linearis*), *Joycea pallida*, *Lindsaea linearis*, *Lomandra filiformis*, *Lomandra glauca*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Mirbelia platyloboides*, *Patersonia sericea*, *Phyllota squarrosa*, *Platysace linearifolia*, *Poa sieberiana*, *Poranthera microphylla*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Rhytidosporum procumbens*, *Thysanotus tuberosus*, *Viola sieberiana*

### **Vines & Climbers**

*Billardiera scandens*

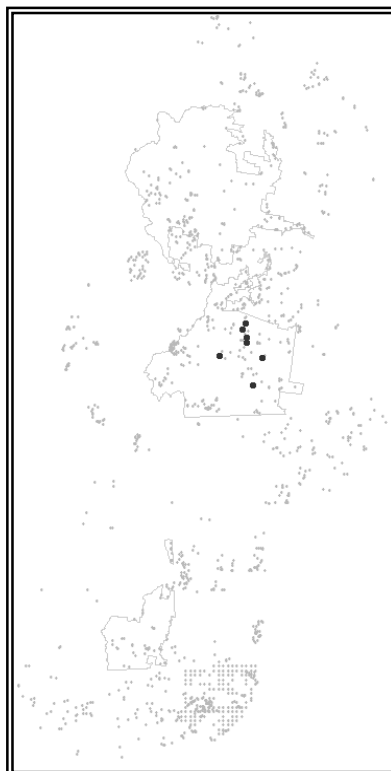
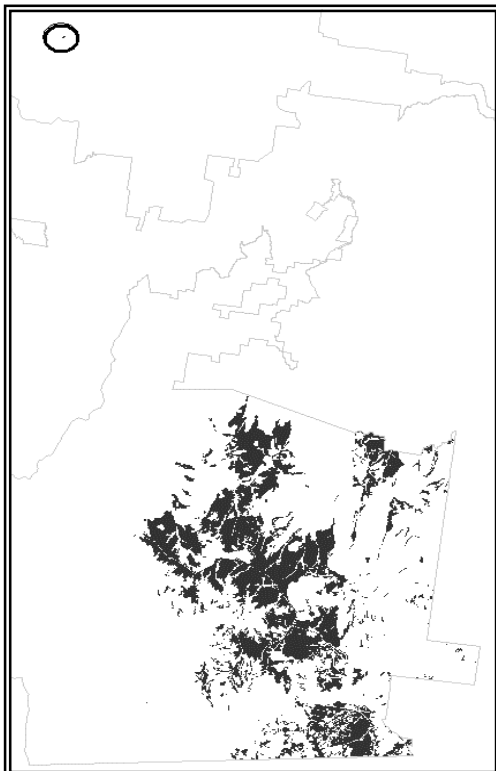
## □ **KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES**

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

- Taller forest or woodland of *E. radiata* and *E. sieberi*, often with *E. blaxlandii* and *E. oreades*, over a moderately dense and quite diverse shrub layer.
- Brown barrel (*E. fastigata*) is absent, broad-leaved peppermint (*E. dives*) and Sydney peppermint (*E. piperita*) are in low numbers.
- Groundcover is of variable density but is usually quite diverse, with red-anther wallaby grass (*Joycea*) and blue snowgrass (*Poa sieberiana* var. *cyanophylla*) the dominant tussocks and goodenias, lomandras, flag iris (*Patersonia*) and bracken (*Pteridium*) also often in good numbers.
- Favours flatter / broader ridges but will occur on upper slopes and in places below pagoda outcrops.

## □ **EXAMPLE LOCATIONS**

Throughout Newnes Plateau, with a small outlier (dominated by *E. blaxlandii*) on Mount Genowlan near the dwarf she-oak heath.



□ **CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	559.33	8.64
B Medium	2668.02	41.22
C High	3245.17	50.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>6472</b>	<b>100</b>

□ **THREATENED PLANT SPECIES**

Definite: *Derwentia blakelyi*, *Persoonia hindii*

Possible: *Acacia flocktoniae*, *Astrotricha crassifolia*, *Atkinsonia ligustrina*, *Boronia deanei*, *Persoonia hirsuta*, *Persoonia marginata*

□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

(Map Unit 26)

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Acacia buxifolia</i>	2	42.86	1	7.76	positive
<i>Acacia terminalis</i>	2	71.43	2	12.08	positive
<i>Amperea xiphoclada</i>	2	71.43	2	8.80	positive
<i>Banksia cunninghamii</i>	3	42.86	1	2.64	positive
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	2	85.71	1	21.60	positive
<i>Boronia microphylla</i>	2	85.71	2	4.80	positive
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2	42.86	2	3.44	positive
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	2	71.43	2	8.16	positive
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	3	71.43	2	3.52	positive
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	2	57.14	2	27.76	positive
<i>Diuris platichila</i>	1	14.29	0	0.00	positive
<i>Eucalyptus blaxlandii</i>	3	85.71	3	10.88	positive
<i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i>	3	42.86	3	15.52	positive
<i>Eucalyptus oreades</i>	2	57.14	3	2.24	positive
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	3	57.14	3	13.60	positive
<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>	3	85.71	3	14.16	positive
<i>Goodenia bellidifolia</i>	2	42.86	2	10.72	positive
<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>	3	57.14	2	10.88	positive
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	2	42.86	2	27.28	positive
<i>Hovea linearis</i>	2	42.86	1	11.04	positive
<i>Joycea pallida</i>	3	71.43	2	14.00	positive
<i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i>	2	42.86	2	18.55	positive
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2	42.86	2	13.76	positive
<i>Lomandra glauca</i>	2	57.14	2	25.12	positive
<i>Lomatia silaifolia</i>	2	85.71	2	14.40	positive
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	2	42.86	2	26.72	positive
<i>Monotoca scoparia</i>	3	100.00	2	26.80	positive
<i>Olearia myrsinoides</i>	2	42.86	1	1.68	positive
<i>Patersonia glabrata</i>	2	42.86	2	6.00	positive
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	2	71.43	2	12.48	positive
<i>Phyllota squarrosa</i>	2	57.14	2	4.24	positive
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	2	85.71	1	7.84	positive
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	2	85.71	2	31.92	positive
<i>Solenogyne bellioides</i>	2	57.14	2	2.88	positive
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	2	57.14	1	1.60	positive
<i>Viola sieberiana</i>	2	57.14	2	2.80	positive
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	3	57.14	2	36.08	constant
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	2	57.14	2	39.43	constant
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	3	71.43	2	39.76	constant

□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

Shrubby sub-unit (26a)

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	2	55.56	2	6.57	positive
<i>Boronia microphylla</i>	3	88.89	2	4.64	positive
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2	44.44	2	3.36	positive
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	2	100.00	2	7.85	positive
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	2	88.89	2	27.48	positive
<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	2	66.67	2	17.71	positive
<i>Eucalyptus dives</i>	3	55.56	3	10.98	positive
<i>Eucalyptus rossii</i>	4	44.44	3	13.06	positive
<i>Eucalyptus sclerophylla</i>	3	44.44	3	1.36	positive
<i>Gonocarpus teucrioides</i>	2	77.78	2	16.91	positive
<i>Goodenia bellidifolia</i>	2	88.89	2	10.34	positive
<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>	2	100.00	2	10.50	positive
<i>Isopogon anemonifolius</i>	2	66.67	2	7.21	positive
<i>Joycea pallida</i>	3	66.67	2	13.94	positive
<i>Lepyrodia scariosa</i>	4	55.56	2	2.72	positive
<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>	2	44.44	1	3.28	positive
<i>Lomandra glauca</i>	3	55.56	2	25.08	positive
<i>Mirbelia platylobioides</i>	2	66.67	1	1.52	positive
<i>Patersonia longifolia</i>	2	66.67	2	4.40	positive
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	2	66.67	2	12.42	positive
<i>Petrophile pulchella</i>	3	66.67	2	5.60	positive
<i>Platysace linearifolia</i>	2	66.67	2	8.01	positive
<i>Rhytidosporum procumbens</i>	2	44.44	1	4.64	positive
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	2	66.67	1	7.37	positive
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	3	44.44	2	39.50	constant
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	4	88.89	2	39.58	constant
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	2	33.33	2	36.22	negative