MU 41 CAPERTEE SLOPES SLATY GUM – GREY GUM – MUGGA – *CALLITRIS* OPEN FOREST

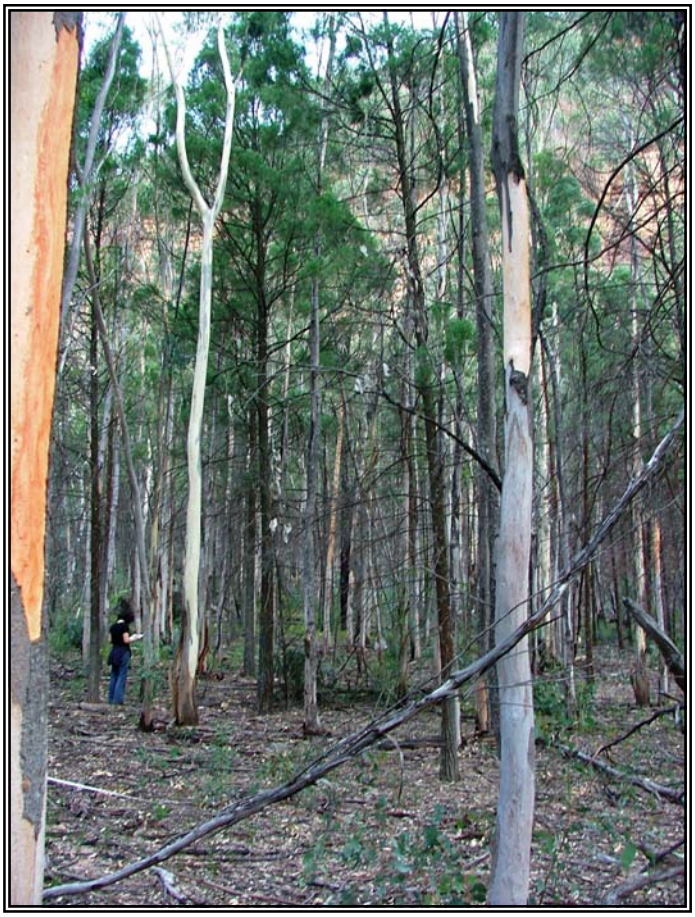
❑ *CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS*

Regional: No matching type in Tindall *et al.* (2004)

State: Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests

Number of Sites: 13 Average number of identified native species per plot: 32.2

❑ *DESCRIPTION*



The lower escarpment slopes of the eastern Capertee Valley feature a taller forest and woodland (c. 25 metres) that includes the locally endemic tree slaty gum (*E. dawsonii*). Companion species include grey gum (*E. punctata)* and ironbarks (*E. sideroxylon* and *E. fibrosa*) while black cypress pine (*Callitris endecheri*) was recorded at almost every site. The unit favours sandy soils derived from weathering of sandstone talus falling from the cliff lines above. It varies from the escarpment bench down to the lower slopes, and may occur on either deep sandy or relatively shallow and stony soils. In all cases it would seem that the soil is very well drained. The understorey includes a low, sparse and patchy shrub cover and often a fair cover of grasses and with cycads prolific at some locations. Sometimes the groundcover is very sparse, especially where a dense canopy of pine or wattles occurs. This is likely to reflect past grazing and clearing activities that have impacted on the lower slopes.

The majority of occurrences are in the Glen Davis and Glen Alice – Capertee Nile areas, with an outlier on the south side of Mount Marsden. It extends from about 280 metres above sea level to about 600 metres in the eastern Capertee, and from 640 to 800 metres near Mount Marsden. The rainfall values are between 650 and 750 millimetres *per annum*.

Like many of the other Capertee dry sclerophyll communities this falls within the Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests of Keith (2004). Not found elsewhere in the Hawkesbury – Nepean catchment it follows the escarpment on the western and northern perimeter of Wollemi National Park through to the Hunter Valley. While most areas fall outside the reserve there are some small examples present (Bell *et al.* 1998). More detailed mapping is required to estimate areas protected.

❑ *STRUCTURAL SUMMARY*

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	13	8.9	24.00	35	30.8	11.52	15	50
M1	9	0.8	2.61	6	14.7	9.14	2	35
L1	13		0.61	1.5	17.8	20.43	5	80

❑ *FLORISTIC SUMMARY*

Trees: Mean Upper Height -

Eucalyptus dawsonii, E. fibrosa, E. punctata, E. sideroxylon

Low Trees/Ferns:

Callitris endlicheri, Dodonaea viscosa ssp. *cuneata, Lissanthe strigosa*

Ground Covers:

Aristida spp*., Austrostipa scabra, Brunoniella australis, Entolasia stricta, Gahnia aspera, Goodenia hederacea, Lepidosperma gunnii, Lomandra confertifolia, Notodanthonia longifolia*

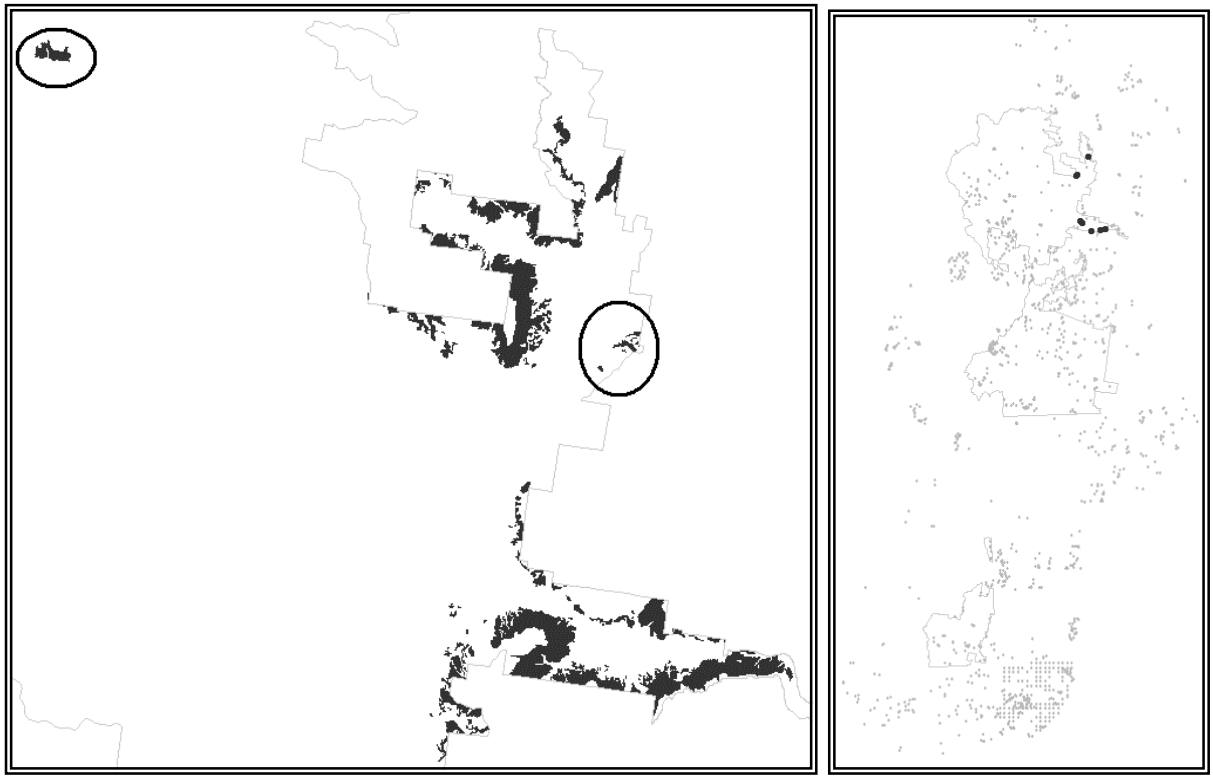
❑ *KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES*

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

- Presence of slaty gum (*E. dawsonii*), often in moderate amounts in the canopy and sometimes markedly dominant, with grey gum as a frequent component.
- Thickets of *Callitris* pine in some parts, particularly where there has been a history of disturbance.
- Cycads (*Macrozamia reducta* mainly) are occasional to abundant, particularly where soils are deeper earthy sands.

❑ *EXAMPLE LOCATIONS*

Hillslopes above and surrounding Glen Davis, west of Capertee Nile Creek below Mount Innes and south of Mount Marsden in the northern Capertee Valley.



❑ *CONDITION ASSESSMENT*

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	427.57	21.33
B Medium	923.43	46.07
C High	653.46	32.60
Total	**2004**	**100**

❑ *THREATENED PLANT SPECIES*

Definite: *Prostanthera cryptandroides*

Possible: *Apatophyllum constablei*, *Persoonia hirsuta*, *Philotheca ericifolia, Pultenaea glabra*

- ***DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES***

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
Acacia ixiophylla	2	37.50	2	2.00	positive
Aristida jerichoensis var. *jerichoensis*	2	37.50	2	2.00	positive
Aristida vagans	2	50.00	2	5.84	positive
Austrostipa scabra	2	50.00	2	5.28	positive
Brachyscome dissectifolia	2	12.50	0	0.00	positive
Brunoniella australis	2	62.50	2	0.88	positive
Callitris endlicheri	3	100.00	2	3.68	positive
Cassinia leptocephala	3	12.50	0	0.00	positive
Cheilanthes sieberi	2	50.00	2	20.50	positive
Desmodium varians	2	37.50	2	19.22	positive
Dichondra repens	2	37.50	2	24.26	positive
Digitaria diffusa	2	37.50	2	0.56	positive
Dodonaea viscosa subsp. *cuneata*	2	50.00	2	1.36	positive
Entolasia stricta	3	50.00	2	17.85	positive
Eucalyptus dawsonii	3	62.50	4	0.56	positive
Eucalyptus fibrosa	3	50.00	3	3.12	positive
Eucalyptus punctata	4	62.50	3	21.14	positive
Eucalyptus sideroxylon	3	37.50	2	0.72	positive
Gahnia aspera	2	75.00	2	4.32	positive
Glycine clandestina	2	37.50	2	20.50	positive
Goodenia hederacea	2	75.00	2	17.85	positive
Hovea apiculata	2	12.50	0	0.00	positive
Lissanthe strigosa	2	37.50	2	13.77	positive
Lomandra confertifolia	2	37.50	2	11.29	positive
Notodanthonia longifolia	2	62.50	2	6.88	positive
Panicum effusum	2	37.50	2	2.08	positive
Lomandra filiformis	2	75.00	2	35.95	constant
Lomandra longifolia	0	0.00	2	39.78	negative
Poa sieberiana	0	0.00	2	40.19	negative