

# MU 52 NEWNES PLATEAU RUSH – SEDGE SNOW GUM HOLLOW WOODED HEATH

## □ CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS

Regional: FOW54 Tablelands Swamp Woodland/FRW30 Blue Mountains Shoalhaven Hanging Swamps

State: Subalpine Woodlands / Montane Bogs and fens

Number of Sites: 1

Average number of identified native species per plot: 38

## □ DESCRIPTION

The highest ridgelines of the Newnes Plateau include open depressions that are sites of semi permanent water seepage. A wet woody shrub swamp occupies these locations. The uppermost stratum is a very open cover of snow gum (*E. pauciflora*), with occasional mountain gum (*E. dalrympleana*). Taller shrubs of tea tree (*Leptospermum obovatum*, *L. trinervium*) and swamp grevillea (*Grevillea acanthifolia*) are by far the most abundant feature of the community. A dense, uneven cover of various sedges and rushes – dominated by *Empodisma minus* – is to be found covering the ground along with small, moisture loving forbs.

Found at elevations of 1150 to 1170 metres above sea level, growing in saturated, humic-loam sediments overlying the Narrabeen sandstones. There is about 1020 millimetres of precipitation *per annum*, but the landscape position suggests that groundwater and seepage are more important for the persistence of the community.

Data analysis suggested that this community was closely related to other poorly drained sites found on high elevation sandstone. However the data analysis included few sites from other swamps in higher elevations and consequently may be misleading. Based on a comparative review of species composition there is much to suggest that it is similar to the Tablelands Swamp Woodland of Tindall *et al.* (2004) and is an intermediate group between Montane Bogs and Fens and Subalpine Woodlands of Keith (2004). Irrespective of these comparisons this community clearly forms part of the Montane Peatlands and Swamps Endangered Ecological Community listed under the NSW TSC Act 1995. It also forms part of the *Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone* an Endangered Ecological Community listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act 1999.



## □ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	1	10	25	25	5		5	5
M1	1	1	2	2	65		65	65
L1	1		1	1	90		90	90

## □ FLORISTIC SUMMARY

### Emergents and Trees

*Eucalyptus dalrympleana*, *E. mannifera*, *E. pauciflora*

### Low Trees and Shrubs

*Epacris microphylla*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Leptospermum obovatum*, *Pultenaea capitellata*

### Ground Covers

*Baloskion australe*, *Brachyscome scapigera*, *Deyeuxia gunniana*, *Empodisma minus*, *Gahnia sieberiana*, *Galium liratum*, *Gonocarpus micranthus*, *Gonocarpus tetragynus*, *Hydrocotyle peduncularis*, *Lepyrodia anarthria*,

*Lomandra filiformis*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Mitrasacme serpyllifolia*, *Murdannia graminea*, *Poa sieberiana*, *Sowerbaea juncea*, *Thelymitra venosa*, *Velleia montana*, *Viola hederacea*, *Viola sieberiana*, *Xanthosia dissecta*

□ **KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES**

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

- Wetland community with a dense tea tree layer (*Leptospermum myrtifolium/obovatum*) with *Grevillea acanthifolia* and *Epacris* species. The groundcover is dense, dominated by the rush *Empodisma*, although an array of moisture-loving forbs is also present. Trees are scattered – occasionally clustered – and favour more elevated microtopography.
- Unlike Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp community, this is dominated more by *Leptospermum* – both relatively uncommon in that community.

□ **EXAMPLE LOCATIONS**

Restricted to a small area on the Newnes Plateau, near Blackfellowshand – Sunnyside Ridge intersection in the headwaters of the Wolgan River.



□ **CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	34.87	76.14
B Medium	10.93	23.86
C High		
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.80</b>	<b>100</b>

□ **THREATENED PLANT SPECIES**

None noted, but *Boronia deanei*, *Baloskion longipes* and *Eucalyptus camphora* may occur. The community forms part of the *Montane Peatlands and Swamps* Endangered Ecological Community. It also forms part of the *Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone* Endangered Ecological Community listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act 1999.

□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

<b>Species Name</b>	<b>Group Score</b>	<b>Group Freq (%)</b>	<b>Non Group Score</b>	<b>Non Group Freq (%)</b>	<b>Fidelity Class</b>
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	2	100.00	2	4.85	positive
<i>Baeckea utilis</i>	2	100.00	2	0.87	positive
<i>Baloskion australe</i>	3	100.00	3	0.55	positive
<i>Brachyscome scapigera</i>	2	100.00	2	0.07	positive
<i>Caesia parviflora</i>	2	100.00	1	0.31	positive
<i>Deyeuxia gunniana</i>	2	100.00	0	0.00	positive
<i>Empodisma minus</i>	5	100.00	3	1.43	positive
<i>Epacris microphylla</i>	2	100.00	2	4.29	positive
<i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i>	2	100.00	3	15.61	positive
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	2	100.00	3	5.25	positive
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	2	100.00	1	2.62	positive
<i>Galium liratum</i>	2	100.00	2	0.87	positive
<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i>	2	100.00	2	0.87	positive
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	2	100.00	2	27.79	positive
<i>Grevillea acanthifolia</i>	2	100.00	3	0.79	positive
<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>	2	100.00	2	4.14	positive
<i>Leptospermum obovatum</i>	5	100.00	3	0.95	positive
<i>Lepyrodia anarthria</i>	2	100.00	3	0.23	positive
<i>Mitrasacme serpyllifolia</i>	2	100.00	2	0.39	positive
<i>Murdannia graminea</i>	2	100.00	0	0.00	positive
<i>Oplismenus aemulus</i>	2	100.00	2	1.99	positive
<i>Pultenaea capitellata</i>	2	100.00	1	0.23	positive
<i>Sowerbaea juncea</i>	2	100.00	1	0.87	positive
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	2	100.00	1	7.72	positive
<i>Thelymitra venosa</i>	2	100.00	2	0.07	positive
<i>Velleia montana</i>	2	100.00	1	0.23	positive
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	2	100.00	2	16.88	positive
<i>Viola sieberiana</i>	2	100.00	2	3.02	positive
<i>Xanthosia dissecta</i>	2	100.00	2	0.23	positive
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	2	100.00	2	36.15	constant
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	2	100.00	2	39.48	constant
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	2	100.00	2	39.88	constant