



Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest

NPWS/M. Cufer 2001



Conservation Status

Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest is listed as an endangered ecological community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Description

Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest is a scrub community dominated by coastal banksia (*Banksia integrifolia ssp integrifolia*). Other canopy species include broad-leaved apple (*Angophora subvelutina*). The shrubby understorey is diverse and includes species that usually occur in sandstone areas, such as wedding bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*), riceflower (*Pimelea linifolia ssp linifolia*) and daphne heath (*Brachyloma daphnoides*).

Distribution

Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest occurs only on alluvial sand deposits in the Elderslie area, near Camden. Existing remnants are 13.4 ha in total, and the community is considered to be critically endangered (NPWS 2002a, NPWS 2002b).

Ecology

Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest is a unique ecological community as it includes plants, such as coastal banksia and other sandstone region species, which do not occur in the surrounding Cumberland Plain communities.

Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest occurs only on deep sand soil profiles on the old alluvial terraces of the Nepean River. Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest is resilient but requires deep sand soil to regenerate fully. It intergrades with Cumberland Plain Woodland and river flat forest communities. The nectar-rich banksia, which flowers through autumn and winter, and its proximity to the Nepean river corridor makes Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest good habitat for



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native fauna.

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Threats

Sand mining has removed most of this ecological community. Remnants are now extremely small and vulnerable to weeds, particularly African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*).

Recovery and management

The recovery of this ecological community is being addressed as part of the Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Communities Recovery Plan, which is currently being prepared.

All Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest remnants need to be thoroughly surveyed and assessed. High conservation value Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest remnants will be identified in the recovery plan and recommended for

protection through a range of mechanisms including reservation, environmental protection zoning and development control processes. Other protection measures can be through plans of management and voluntary conservation agreements. These measures will enable the remnants to be better managed for conservation and vegetation corridors to be formed. Undisturbed sites of Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest where identified, could be used as the basis for a regeneration strategy. Sand mining projects, if approved, should have a detailed regeneration strategy and retain surface soil, which contains the soil seedbank. Previously mined sites should be investigated for regeneration potential.

For further information contact

Central Threatened Species Unit, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220 Phone 02 9585 6678. www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

References

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