MU 10 CAPERTEE RESIDUAL BASALT BRITTLE GUM – STRINGYBARK LAYERED OPEN FOREST

❑ *CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS*

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

State: Tablelands Clay Grassy Woodlands

Number of Sites: 4 Average number of identified native species per plot: 36.5

❑ *DESCRIPTION*

Restricted to the shallow, residual soils within the Tertiary basalt areas of the western Capertee, this is an open forest or sometimes a woodland unit with a moderately dense midstorey and good proportion of groundcovers. The main trees are brittle gum (*E. mannifera*) and stringybarks (often *E. cannonii*), although monkey gum (*E. cypellocarpa*) and scattered ribbon gums (*E. viminalis*) will occur in the area too. The shrubs vary, but prominent components are *Styphelia triflora*, *Grevillea arenaria* and *Melichrus urceolatus*. The groundcover has a high proportion of forbs, with *Plantago*, *Hydrocotyle* and *Dichondra* the main components.

As the basalt occurrences are mainly on the tops of the mesa-like Mount Airly, Mount Genowlan and Mount Vincent, and northwest of Tayan Peak, the community typically occurs at higher altitudes – between 900 metres (northern) and 1000 metres (western) above sea level. Precipitation values are of the order of 750 millimetres to 850 millimetres *per annum*.

No matching community occurs in the area considered in Tindall *et al.* (2004), although some of their units have similar topographic and geological features. The community is likely to share closer similarities to the residual basalt woodlands found on Nullo Mountain, just outside of the northern boundary of the catchment. The best related statewide classification under the scheme of Keith (2004) would see it considered as part of the Tablelands Clay Grassy Woodlands. Reservation levels for this community are low and more extensive areas of basalt in the region have been cleared for agriculture.

❑ *STRUCTURAL SUMMARY*

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	3	5.0	15.67	20	35.0	5	30	40
M1	3	0.9	3.17	4	20.0	10	10	30
M2	1	0.5	1.5	1.5	15.0		15	15
L1	3	0.2	0.7	1.5	30.0	18.03	15	50
L2	1		0.3	0.3	10.0		10	10

❑ *FLORISTIC SUMMARY*

Trees

Eucalyptus cannonii, E. cypellocarpa, E. mannifera

Low Trees and Shrubs

Acrotriche rigida, Cassinia uncata, Grevillea arenaria, Indigofera australis, Melichrus urceolatus, Styphelia triflora

Ground Covers

Dianella revoluta, Gonocarpus tetragynus, Hydrocotyle laxiflora, Lomandra filiformis, Plantago hispida, Stellaria pungens, Veronica plebeia

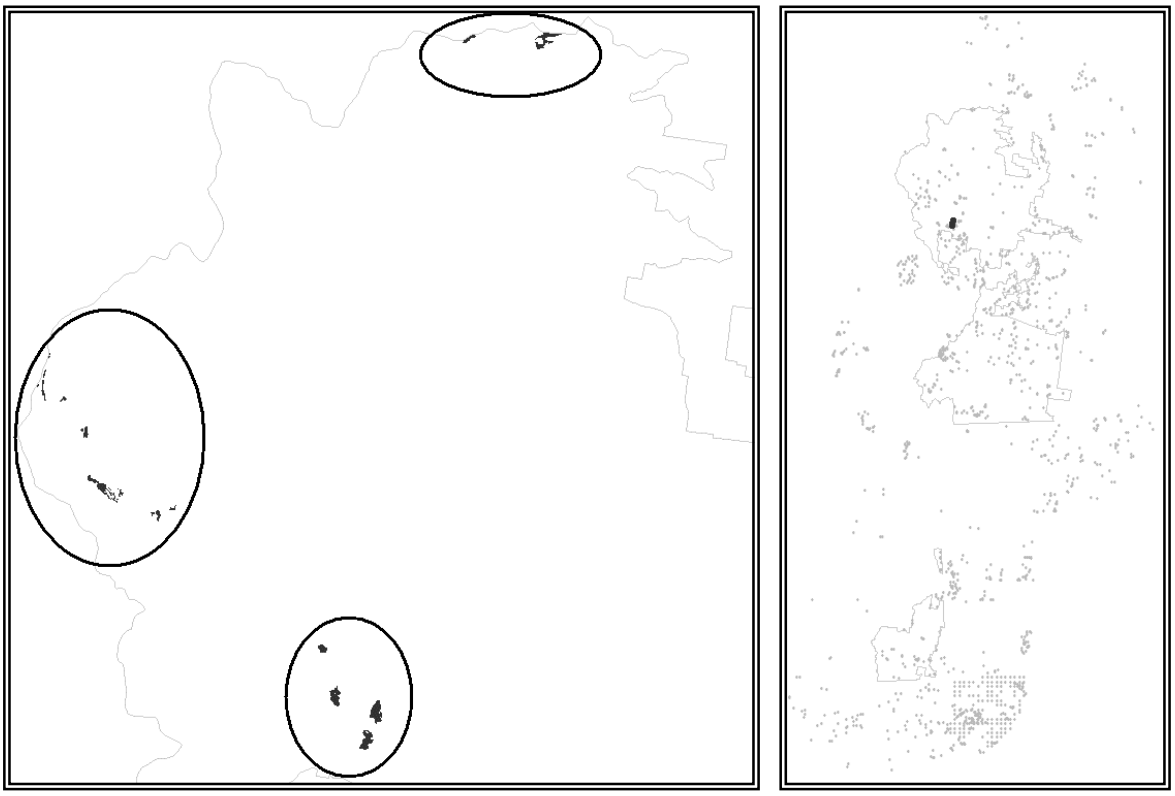
❑ *KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES*

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

- Basalt-derived soils, although these may be thin and admixed with the underlying Tertiary era sediments and Triassic era sandstones.
- When established is an open shrubby – grassy community with moderate to high diversity (relative to other communities nearby), and often identified by the presence of the tall shrub *Grevillea arenaria*.

❑ *EXAMPLE LOCATIONS*

On the top of Airly Turret near the telecommunications tower; above Point Hatteras on Mount Airly; edge of Mount Vincent.



❑ *CONDITION ASSESSMENT*

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	26.49	18.66
B Medium	37.12	26.15
C High	78.34	55.19
Total	**141.95**	**100**

❑ *THREATENED PLANT SPECIES*

Definite: *Eucalyptus cannonii, Prostanthera stricta*

- ***DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES***

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
Acacia ixiophylla	3	50.00	2	2.07	positive
Ajuga australis	2	50.00	2	8.38	positive
Astroloma humifusum	2	50.00	1	11.09	positive
Austrodanthonia racemosa var. *racemosa*	5	50.00	2	9.65	positive
Carex inversa	2	50.00	2	4.31	positive
Cassinia uncata	2	100.00	1	3.19	positive
Clematis glycinoides	2	50.00	2	30.65	positive
Dichelachne inaequiglumis	2	50.00	2	7.18	positive
Dichondra repens	2	50.00	2	24.26	positive
Eucalyptus cannonii	3	75.00	2	3.35	positive
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha	4	50.00	3	10.14	positive
Eucalyptus mannifera	4	75.00	3	8.38	positive
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	4	50.00	3	5.26	positive
Gonocarpus tetragynus	2	75.00	2	27.69	positive
Gonocarpus teucrioides	2	50.00	2	17.24	positive
Hydrocotyle laxiflora	2	100.00	2	24.02	positive
Hypericum japonicum	2	50.00	2	6.46	positive
Indigofera australis	2	75.00	2	15.32	positive
Lepidosperma gunnii	2	50.00	2	8.61	positive
Leucopogon fraseri	3	50.00	2	1.59	positive
Melichrus urceolatus	2	100.00	1	4.54	positive
Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*	3	50.00	2	26.74	positive
Olearia asterotricha	2	50.00	2	0.07	positive
Plantago hispida	2	75.00	2	7.58	positive
Prostanthera stricta	3	25.00	0	0.00	positive
Pterostylis coccina	2	50.00	2	2.71	positive
Pterostylis ophioglossa	2	25.00	0	0.00	positive
Stellaria pungens	2	75.00	2	22.98	positive
Styphelia triflora	2	75.00	1	3.75	positive
Viola betonicifolia	2	50.00	2	16.60	positive
Wahlenbergia stricta	2	50.00	2	14.76	positive
Lomandra filiformis	2	75.00	2	36.07	constant
Lomandra longifolia	2	50.00	2	39.51	constant
Poa sieberiana	3	50.00	2	39.90	constant