MU 14 TABLELAND MOUNTAIN GUM – SNOW GUM – DAVIESIA MONTANE OPEN FOREST

❑ *CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS*

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

State: Subalpine Woodland

Number of Sites: 8 Average number of identified native species per plot: 27.9

❑ *DESCRIPTION*

This community is a relatively low forest found on exposed slopes and ridges of the Oberon and Gurnang Plateau. Taller mountain gum (*Eucalyptus dalrympleana* ssp. *dalrympleana*) and lower growing snow gum (*E. pauciflora*) and peppermint (*E. dives*) form a discontinuous and uneven canopy. The community is better characterised by the broken layer of snow grass dominated groundcover and the presence of the shrub *Daviesia latifolia*. A variation within this community is found on the Newnes Plateau. A number of sites grouped with those found in the Gurnang area. While the floristics of the sites are united by a similar canopy and ground cover, the substrate and topographic position are very different. On the Newnes Plateau the substrate is enriched sandstones, and the community is restricted to several shallow depressions and hollows and minor drainage lines. These are likely to be cold air sinks, restricting the suitability of habitat to selected subalpine species. Further sampling may reveal these communities to be worthy of separation. The Newnes Plateau variation is often marked by the presence of additional tree species such as *E. oreades* and *E. mannifera.*

In both cases the map unit is found in exposed, higher elevation situations. The altitudinal range for the unit is from 980 to 1360 metres above sea level and the sites receive about 930 millimetres to 1100 millimetres of precipitation *per annum*.

Despite the close proximity to areas mapped as part of Tindall *et al.* (2004) no corresponding *community* could be identified, and the unit would most likely be part of the Subalpine Woodland of Keith (2004). Reservation levels are poor, and while clearing has often retained the less desirable rocky knolls and shallow soils where this community grows, much of its extant distribution is highly fragmented and isolated.

❑ *STRUCTURAL SUMMARY*

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	8	8.88	19.38	25	38.13	9.61	30	55
M1	7	0.51	2.14	4	28.14	24.34	7	75
M2	2	0.35	0.88	1	10	0	10	10
L1	8		0.30	0.5	48.75	17.27	20	80

❑ *FLORISTIC SUMMARY*

Trees

Eucalyptus dalrympleana, E. dives, E. pauciflora

Low Trees and Shrubs

Daviesia latifolia

Ground Covers

Gonocarpus tetragynus, Hibbertia obtusifolia, Lomandra filiformis, Microlaena stipoides, Poa sieberiana

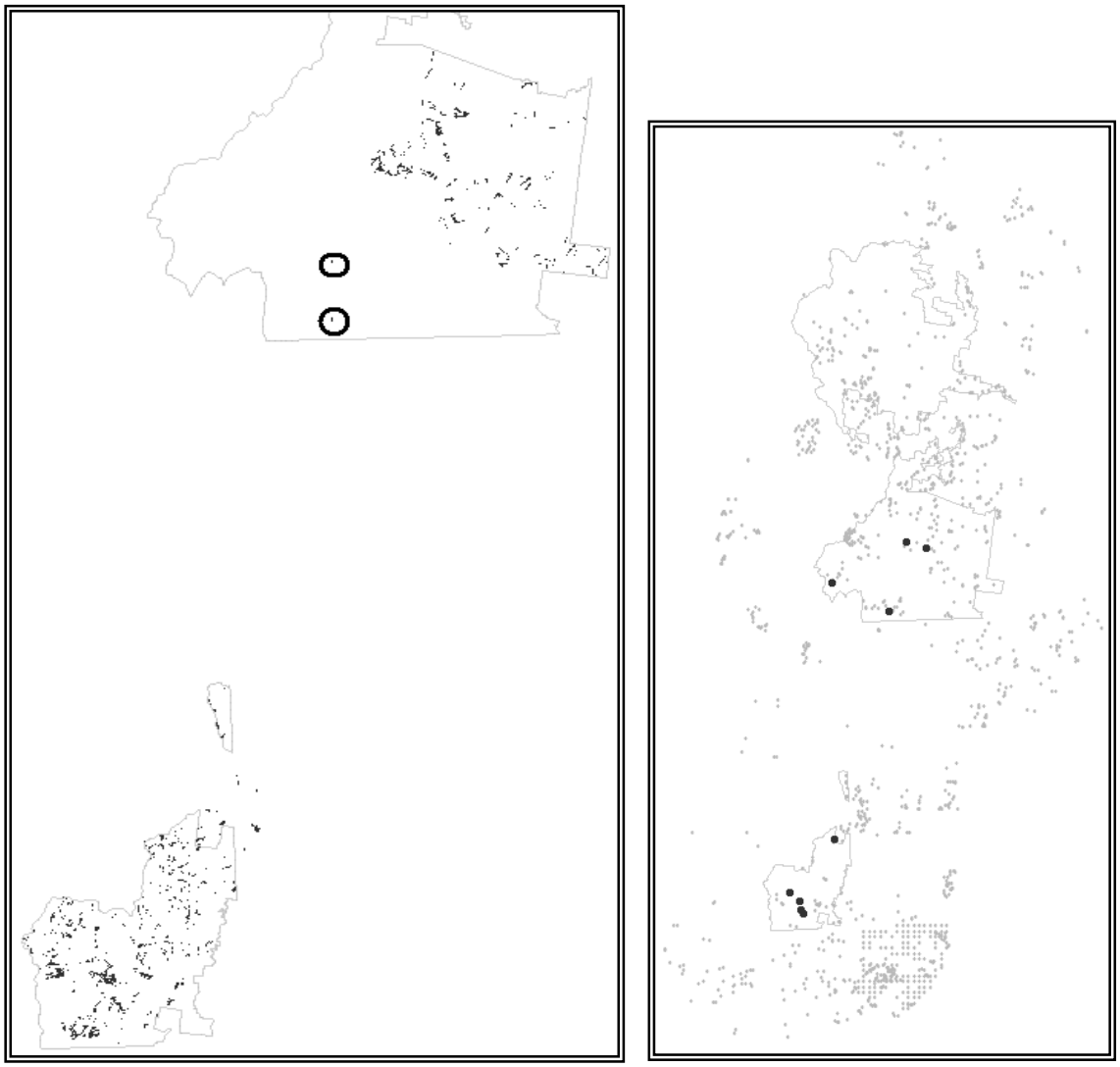
❑ *KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES*

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

- Mountain gum and snow gum forming a dominant stratum, with a varied understorey that may be shrubby or grassy or both.
- Favours hillsides and steeper slopes over metamorphic substrates, often with much broken rock at or near the surface, but some flatter areas have been heavily grazed.
- Favours higher altitudes, rarely occuring below 800 metres elevation.

❑ *EXAMPLE LOCATIONS*

Tuglow River near Gurnang State Forest; Mount Walker, west of Lithgow.



❑ *CONDITION ASSESSMENT*

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	162.58	9.49
B Medium	533.35	31.13
C High	1017.32	59.38
Total	**1713.25**	**100**

❑ *THREATENED PLANT SPECIES*

Definite: *Derwentia blakelyi, Persoonia hindii*
Possible: *Diuris aequalis, Eucalyptus camphora, Euphrasia scabra, Trachymene scapigera* (syn. *T. saniculifolia*)

❑ *DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES*

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
Brachyloma daphnoides	2	44.45	1	14.43	positive
Daviesia latifolia	2	77.79	2	3.37	positive
Dichelachne inaequiglumis	2	44.45	2	7.06	positive
Eucalyptus dalrympleana	3	100.01	3	15.07	positive
Eucalyptus pauciflora	3	77.79	3	4.81	positive
Gonocarpus tetragynus	2	77.79	2	27.49	positive
Hibbertia obtusifolia	2	77.79	2	27.01	positive
Joycea pallida	3	55.57	2	14.03	positive
Lomandra glauca	2	66.68	2	25.01	positive
Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*	2	55.57	2	26.61	positive
Poranthera microphylla	2	55.57	1	23.17	positive
Pterostylis reflexa	2	44.45	2	2.09	positive
Stylidium graminifolium	2	44.45	2	7.54	positive
Viola betonicifolia	2	77.79	2	16.28	positive
Wahlenbergia littoricola	1	11.12	0	0.01	positive
Lomandra filiformis	2	66.68	2	35.99	constant
Lomandra longifolia	2	55.57	2	39.43	constant
Poa sieberiana	4	88.9	2	39.59	constant