

MU 17 CAPERTEE BOX – KURRAJONG – GREY GUM GRASSY WOODLANDS

□ CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS

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

State: Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands

Number of Sites: 5

Average number of identified native species per plot: 38.6

□ DESCRIPTION

The lower slopes of the northern Capertee Valley Escarpment support a tall grassy box forest (c.25 metres in height). This is a forest or woodland community dominated by white/grey box (*E. albens/moluccana*), grey gum (*E. punctata*) and kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) with a relatively even, diverse groundcover. A shrubby layer may be present, usually dominated by *Bursaria*, *Lissanthe* and shrubs from the daisy family such as *Cassinia* and *Olearia*. The main grasses are soft, palatable types such as wallaby grasses (*Austrodanthonia* spp.), speargrasses (*Austrostipa* spp.) and grasses such as kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*) and barbwire grass (*Cymbopogon*).

The community falls near the transition between the sandstone colluvium of the escarpment, metamorphic basement rocks and the lower elevations of the Permian Valley Floor itself. Mixing of plant species from each of these domains is common within this unit. Loose rock at the surface is a feature of the community when on steeper slopes, but in less steep places the groundcover and litter provide adequate cover and a moderately deep soil may develop. The range for this unit is between 270 and 800 metres above sea level. Annual precipitation is in the order of 600 to 800 millimetres *per annum*.



As with many of the Capertee mapping units this one shows relationships to the inland communities, being placed within the Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands of Keith (2004). No similar unit could be identified in Tindall *et al.* (2004). The community is typical of the Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands in that gentle topography has largely been cleared and remaining. Few examples of this community occur in the adjoining Wollemi National Park, and it is poorly reserved across its range (Keith 2004). Portions of this community fit within the scheduled description of *White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland* Endangered Ecological Community, listed under the NSW TSC Act 1995. It also forms a component of the *Grassy White Box Woodlands* Endangered Ecological Community listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act 1999.

□ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	4	7.5	26.25	30	23.8	8.54	15	35
M1	3	0.4	4.67	8	7.7	2.52	5	10
L1	4	0.1	0.53	1	37.5	32.02	10	70
L2	1		0.5	0.5	15		15	15

□ FLORISTIC SUMMARY

Trees

Eucalyptus albens, *E. moluccana*, *E. punctata*

Low Trees and Shrubs

Acacia melanoxylon, *Brachychiton populneus*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Lissanthe strigosa*

Ground Covers

Acaena echinata, *Ajuga australis*, *Aristida vagans*, *Arthropodium milleflorum*, *Asperula conferta*, *Austrodanthonia racemosa*, *Austrostipa scabra*, *Carex inversa*, *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*, *Cymbonotus lawsonianus*, *Cymbopogon refractus*, *Cynoglossum suaveolens*, *Dichondra repens*, *Eremophila debilis*, *Gahnia aspera*, *Hydrocotyle laxiflora*, *Lomandra filiformis*, *Mentha saturioides*, *Oxalis perennans*, *Plantago hispida*, *Sida corrugata*, *Wahlenbergia* spp.

Vines & Climbers

Clematis aristata

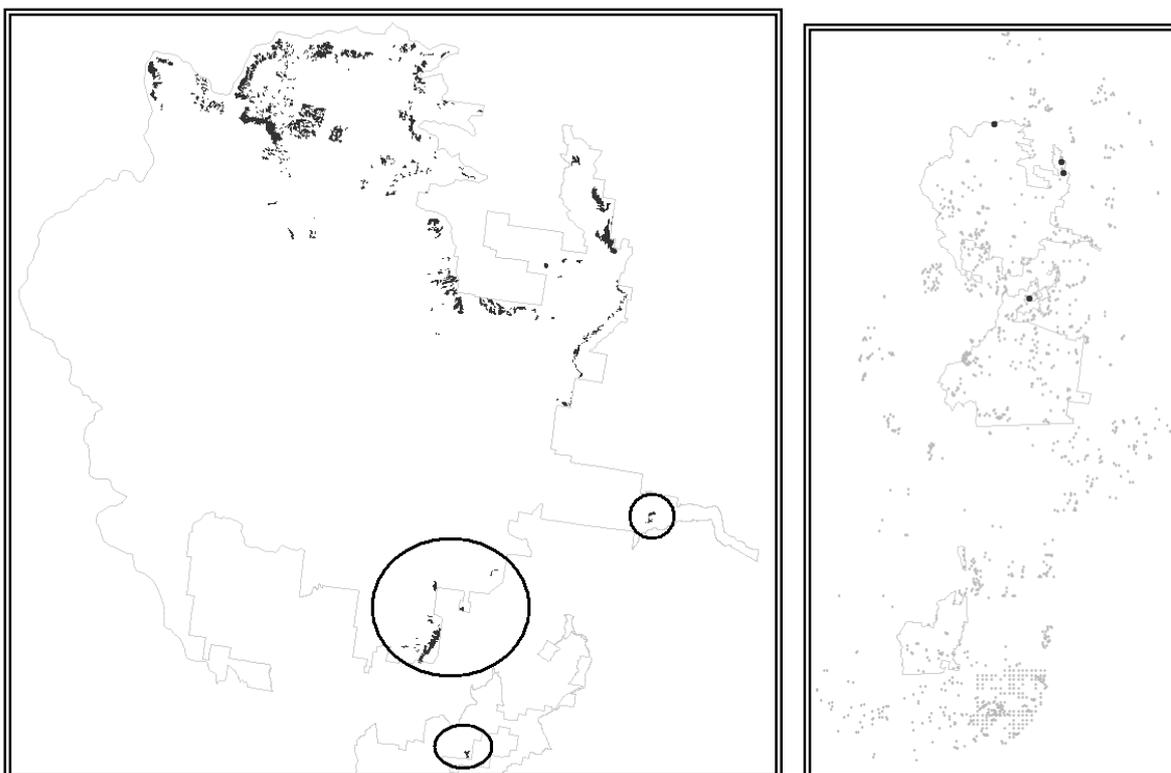
□ KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES

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

- White box (usually) or grey box (in places), with grey gum (*E. punctata*) and kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) over a grass-dominated, diverse understorey.

□ EXAMPLE LOCATIONS

Capertee Valley - northern side of Bogee Creek near Spring Gap, eastern Side of Capertee Nile Creek; Wolgan Valley - in saddle between Mount Wolgan and Donkey Mountain.



□ CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	130.29	8.50
B Medium	414.99	27.09
C High	986.69	64.41
Total	1531.97	100

□ **THREATENED PLANT SPECIES**

Definite: *Prostanthera cryptandroides*

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□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	2	50.00	1	10.77	positive
<i>Acaena ovina</i>	2	50.00	2	5.90	positive
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	2	50.00	2	8.38	positive
<i>Aristida vagans</i>	3	50.00	2	5.98	positive
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	2	75.00	2	4.70	positive
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	2	50.00	2	7.98	positive
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	2	50.00	1	11.09	positive
<i>Austrodanthonia racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	2	75.00	2	9.57	positive
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	3	75.00	2	5.34	positive
<i>Bothriochloa decipiens</i>	2	50.00	2	0.55	positive
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	2	75.00	1	6.78	positive
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	2	100.00	2	18.12	positive
<i>Carex inversa</i>	2	50.00	2	4.31	positive
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>	2	75.00	2	20.51	positive
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	2	50.00	2	30.65	positive
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	2	50.00	1	0.95	positive
<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	2	50.00	1	6.14	positive
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	3	100.00	2	5.02	positive
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	2	75.00	2	5.18	positive
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	2	75.00	2	19.15	positive
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	2	100.00	2	24.10	positive
<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>	4	75.00	3	2.47	positive
<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i>	3	50.00	3	0.63	positive
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>	3	50.00	3	21.31	positive
<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	2	75.00	2	4.54	positive
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	3	75.00	2	24.10	positive
<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	2	50.00	2	6.46	positive
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	2	50.00	2	15.40	positive
<i>Lagenifera stipitata</i>	2	50.00	2	9.97	positive
<i>Mentha satuireioides</i>	2	50.00	2	1.35	positive
<i>Notodanthonia longifolia</i>	2	50.00	2	7.10	positive
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	2	75.00	2	10.38	positive
<i>Plantago hispida</i>	2	75.00	2	7.58	positive
<i>Sida corrugata</i>	2	50.00	1	0.47	positive
<i>Veronica plebeia</i>	2	75.00	2	15.96	positive
<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i>	2	50.00	2	5.82	positive
<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>	2	50.00	1	5.74	positive
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	2	50.00	2	14.76	positive
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	1	75.00	2	36.07	negative
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	0	0.00	2	39.66	negative
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	3	25.00	2	39.98	negative