

SSW Western subalpine scrub: *Banksia marginata* facies

Community Description:

Western subalpine scrub is very variable in structure and density. This community commonly exhibits high diversity, prominently including *Leptospermum nitidum*, *Eucalyptus vernicosa*, *Monotoca submutica*, *Agastachys odorata* and *Cenarrhenes nitida*. This facies of SSW is associated with *Nothofagus gunnii*/*Athrotaxis selaginoides* shrublands and appears to have replaced them in the distant past. It is dominated by *Banksia marginata* with small *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *Leptospermum nitidum* and abundant *Eucryphia milliganii*, and may also have *Agastachys odorata*, *Cenarrhenes nitida*, *Melaleuca squamea* and *Epacris serpyllifolia*. Buttongrass as single tussocks may occur. This benchmark is one of 2 benchmarks available to assess the condition of SSW and is used to assess the condition of this vegetation where *Banksia marginata* is the dominant cover. Note that this is **not** the appropriate benchmark to use in assessing the condition of the listed *Banksia marginata* wet scrub community (Schedule 3A, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*). For this, the benchmark for TASVEG SBM is recommended.

Benchmarks:

| Component | Cover (%) | LF Code |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| Dominant Life Form | 55 | T |
| Organic Litter | 80 | |

| Understorey Life Forms | LF code | # Spp | Cover (%) |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Tree (sub-canopy)/Large Shrub | T | 5 | 55 |
| Medium Shrub/Small Shrub | S | 3 | 20 |
| Medium to Small Sedge/Rush/Sagg/Lily | MSR | 1 | 5 |
| Scramblers/Climbers/Epiphytes | SCE | 1 | 2 |
| Mosses and Lichens | ML | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 5 | 11 | |

Species lists:

| Dominant Life Form Species | Common Name | LF Code |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------|
| <i>Banksia marginata</i> | silver banksia | T |

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| Typical Understorey Species * | Common Name | LF Code |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| <i>Agastachys odorata</i> | fragrant candlebush | T |
| <i>Banksia marginata</i> | silver banksia | T |
| <i>Cenarrhenes nitida</i> | native plum | T |
| <i>Leptospermum nitidum</i> | shiny teatree | T |
| <i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i> | myrtle beech | T |
| <i>Epacris heteronema</i> | southwest heath | S |
| <i>Epacris serpyllifolia</i> | alpine heath | S |
| <i>Eucryphia milliganii</i> | dwarf leatherwood | S |
| <i>Melaleuca squamea</i> | swamp honeymyrtle | S |
| <i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> | pink swampheath | S |
| <i>Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus</i> | buttongrass | LSR |
| <i>Empodisma minus</i> | spreading roperush | MSR |
| <i>Bauera rubioides</i> | wiry bauera | SCE |
| <i>Calorophus</i> spp. | roperush | SCE |

*This list is provided as a guide only. The species listed are typical of this plant community type but may not necessarily be present.