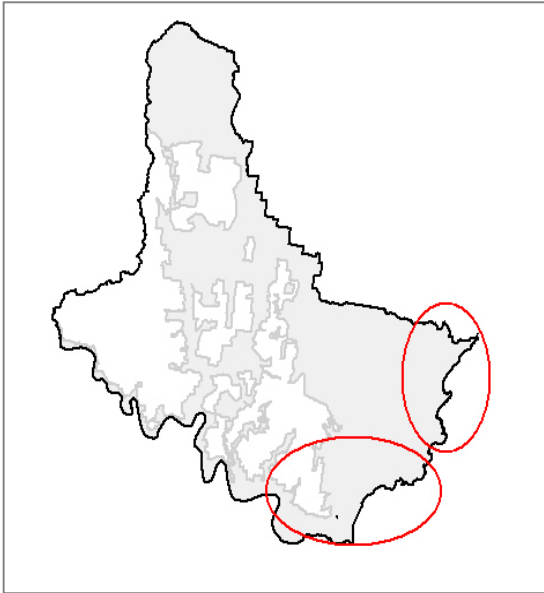


Coastal Headland Grassland

Coastal Headland Complex

Unit E51a
REMS Unit 51



General Description:

On coastal clay headlands and slopes exposed to onshore winds, Coastal Headland Grassland occurs. This community forms a complex of merging vegetation types dependant on local soil conditions and disturbance history, including Shrubland (Units E51b & E51d), Low Closed Forest (Unit E51c), and Gully Scrub (E51e). In the most exposed areas, grasslands are dominated by *Themeda australis* and *Ptilothrix deusta*, with stunted *Pimelea linifolia*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, and *Lasiopetalum parviflorum*.

Known Floristic/ Structural Variations:

No variations have been recognised in this sub-community although ecotones with surrounding Headland types is to be expected.

Distribution:

Within Gosford LGA – occurs on exposed coastal headlands on clay substrates on the Bouddi Peninsula and some other headlands.

Within LHCC Region – NPWS (2000) have mapped 126ha of their Coastal Headland Complex (Unit 51) remaining in the region.

Examples Within Gosford LGA

- Wyrabalong NP
- Bouddi NP

Extent: *Extant* - 17.56 ha

Relationship to Other Communities:

Coastal Headland Grassland is generally distinct from all other communities in the study area due to the clear dominance of *Themeda australis* occurring on coastal headlands.

Equivalent Vegetation Types:

- Benson 1981 (Mangrove Creek): n/a
- Benson & Fallding 1981 (Brisbane Water) n/a
- Benson 1986 (Gosf-Lake Mac): Grassland (Unit 21a)
- Clarke & Benson 1986 (Dharug): n/a
- Strom 1986 (Bouddi Peninsula): n/a
- Clarke & Benson 1987 (Mt White/ Mt Olive): n/a
- McRae 1990 (Bouddi Peninsula): Grassland (Unit 1.1)
- Binns 1996 (SF MFD): n/a
- Payne 1997 (Cockle Bay/ Bouddi): n/a
- Bell 1998 (Popran NP): n/a
- Bell 2002 (Wyong LGA): Coastal Headland Complex (Grassland & Shrubland) (Unit 13)

Significant Species:

- Undescribed species – *none recorded*
- Threatened (TSC Act) – *none recorded, but Thesium australe may be present*
- Rare (ROTAP) – *none recorded*

Community Conservation Status:

Reserve Representation - within Gosford, most areas of this vegetation type are protected within appropriate zonings. It is also present within Bouddi NP, and Wyrribalong NP.

TSC Act (1995) Status - not currently listed.

Mapping Reliability & Included Units:

High Resolution Area – this vegetation type has been mapped from aerial photographic interpretation. It is possible that some disturbed stands of other pasture grass species will be included in the mapping.

Low Resolution Area – no occurrence within the low resolution area expected.

Vegetation Structure:

Stratum	Mean height (m)	Min height (m)	Max height (m)	Mean cover (%)	Sdev	n
Emergent						
Tallest	3.00	3.00	3.00	20		1
Middle 1						
Middle 2						
Middle 3						
Lowest	3.00	3.00	3.00	100		1

Key Diagnostic Species [based on 1 plot]:

Life Form	Species	Community		All others		Fidelity
		c/a	Freq.	c/a	Freq.	
Emergent	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera subsp. glomulifera</i>	1	100%	2	28%	uninformative
Small tree	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	1	100%	2	14%	uninformative
Shrub	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	3	100%	1	11%	positive
	<i>Dillwynia ramosissima</i>	1	100%	0	0%	unique
	<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	1	100%	1	11%	uninformative
	<i>Acacia suaveolens</i>	1	100%	1	28%	uninformative
	<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	1	100%	1	24%	uninformative
	<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	1	100%	2	1%	uninformative
	<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	1	100%	1	17%	uninformative
	<i>Epacris longiflora</i>	1	100%	2	1%	uninformative

Coastal Headland Grassland – E51a

	<i>Hakea teretifolia</i>	1	100%	1	17%	uninformative
	<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>	1	100%	1	3%	uninformative
	<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	1	100%	1	3%	uninformative
	<i>Platylobium formosum</i>	1	100%	2	10%	uninformative
	<i>Pomaderris ferruginea</i>	1	100%	1	3%	uninformative
	<i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i>	1	100%	1	7%	uninformative
	<i>Pultenaea flexilis</i>	1	100%	1	11%	uninformative
	<i>Woolisia pungens</i>	1	100%	1	10%	uninformative
Herb	<i>Gonocarpus teucrioides</i>	2	100%	1	14%	positive
	<i>Opercularia aspera</i>	1	100%	1	5%	uninformative
Grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	6	100%	1	3%	positive
	<i>Themeda australis</i>	3	100%	2	24%	positive
	<i>Imperata cylindrica var major</i>	1	100%	2	29%	uninformative
	<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	0	0%	2	53%	negative
Graminoid	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	0	0%	2	45%	negative
Ground fern	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	0	0%	2	43%	negative
Climber	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	3	100%	1	10%	positive
	<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	1	100%	1	29%	uninformative