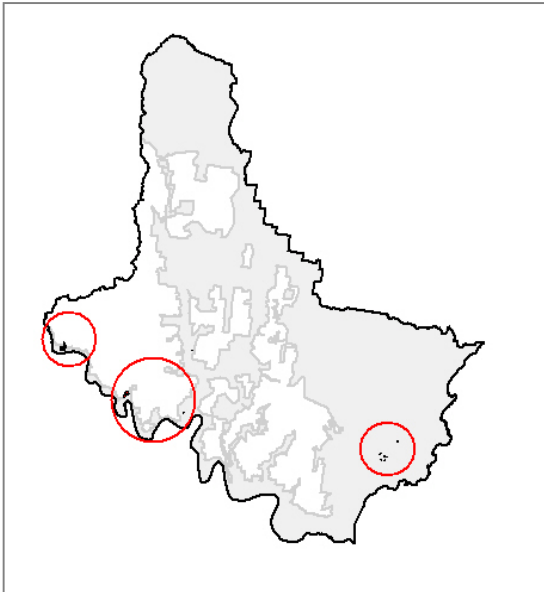


# Swamp Paperbark Thicket

## Closed Heath/ Scrub (ti-tree)

Unit E100  
REMS Unit Qa13



### General Description:

Swamp Paperbark Thicket is characterised by dense, often monospecific stands of Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*). Structurally, this type can vary from a very low heath (0.5m) to a scrub or thicket up to 3m in height. Other species present in the canopy include the shrubs *Viminaria juncea* and *Leptospermum juniperinum*, but both are normally well scattered. The ground layer generally supports sparse-to-dense growth of the grass *Pseudoraphis paradoxa* and the sedge *Baumea juncea*, the latter particularly in situations closer to coastal estuaries. Emergent tree species may also occur, and include *Eucalyptus robusta*, *Casuarina glauca*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and *Melaleuca linariifolia*. Further sampling is required in this vegetation type to better understand floristic relationships. This type is very restricted in the Gosford area when compared to occurrences in Wyong Shire.

### Known Floristic/ Structural Variations:

No variations are currently recognised in this vegetation type, although structural differences are apparent in different areas.

### Distribution:

*Within Gosford LGA* – the main area of occurrence is in the Cockle Bay NR and nearby areas, where this community occurs in small discrete patches. Additional patches have been mapped on the Erina Creek floodplain at Erina, and along the Hawkesbury River.

*Within LHCC Region* – based on Payne and Duncan (1999), NPWS (2000) have mapped 381ha of their Closed Heath/ Scrub [Ti-tree] (Unit Qa13) remaining in the region.

### Examples Within Gosford LGA

- Cockle Bay NR
- Near The Entrance Road/ Erina Creek crossing, Erina

Extent: *Extant* - 33.40 ha

### Relationship to Other Communities:

This vegetation type is quite distinct through the dominance of *Melaleuca ericifolia* either as a heath or scrub. This species may occasionally occur within the understorey of other swamp communities, but the more complex structure and higher species diversity in those communities easily distinguishes them from Unit E100.

**Equivalent Vegetation Types:**

- Benson 1981 (Mangrove Creek): n/a
- Benson & Fallding 1981 (Brisbane Water) n/a
- Benson 1986 (Gosf-Lake Mac): Scrub (Unit 8b) & Closed-Scrub (Unit 27a)
- 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): n/a
- Binns 1996 (SF MFD): n/a
- Payne 1997 (Cockle Bay/ Bouddi): n/a
- Bell 1998 (Popran NP): n/a
- Bell 2002 (Wyong LGA): Alluvial Floodplain Swamp Paperbark Thicket (Unit 18)

**Significant Species:**

- Undescribed species – *none recorded*
- Threatened (TSC Act) – *none recorded*
- Rare (ROTAP) – *none recorded*

**Community Conservation Status:**

*Reserve Representation* - within Gosford, this vegetation type is known from Cockle Bay NR.

*TSC Act (1995) Status* - not currently listed.

**Mapping Reliability & Included Units:**

*High Resolution Area* – this vegetation type has been mapped from aerial photographic interpretation and ground truthing.

*Low Resolution Area* – not expected to occur in the low resolution area.

**Vegetation Structure:**

Stratum	Mean height (m)	Min height (m)	Max height (m)	Mean cover (%)	Sdev	n
Emergent						
Tallest	1.33	1.00	2.00	85	7.1	2
Middle 1						
Middle 2						
Middle 3						
Lowest	0.70	0.10	1.00	85	7.1	2

**Key Diagnostic Species [based on 2 plots]:**

Life Form	Species	Community		All others		Fidelity
		c/a	Freq.	c/a	Freq.	
Small tree	<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	1	50%	2	6%	uninformative
Shrub	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	5	100%	2	3%	positive
Herb	<i>Samolus repens</i>	3	50%	1	2%	positive
	<i>Lobelia alata</i>	2	50%	1	2%	positive

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	<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> subsp. <i>quinqueflora</i>	2	50%	5	1%	positive
	<i>Selliera radicans</i>	1	50%	2	0%	uninformative
Grass	<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>	5	50%	4	1%	positive
	<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	0	0%	2	54%	negative
Graminoid	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	0	0%	2	45%	negative
Ground fern	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	0	0%	2	43%	negative
Sedge/ Rush	<i>Baumea juncea</i>	6	100%	3	4%	positive
	<i>Baumea teretifolia</i>	6	50%	0	0%	unique
	<i>Juncus kraussii</i> subsp. <i>australiensis</i>	2	50%	1	1%	positive
	<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	1	50%	0	0%	unique
	<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>	1	50%	0	0%	unique