

# Introduction to the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) Information Sheets

## Introduction

Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) information sheets have been developed to help increase the knowledge and understanding of extension officers, Landcare members, local government, landholders and individuals interested in managing native vegetation in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

The information sheets provide descriptions of different EVCs, outline the main features, and provide management tips for each of the EVCs. They provide images of EVCs with high and low habitat quality and at different location (where possible) across the Catchment. The threatened and significant flora and fauna species that utilise these EVCs for habitat are also outlined within the information sheets.

## Definitions to help interpret the EVC information sheets

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) is a level of classification. An EVC consists of one or a number of floristic communities that appear to be associated with a recognisable environmental niche. Each EVC is described by a combination of its structure, floristic, life-form and reproductive strategy features, and through an inferred fidelity to particular environmental attributes. (See DSE website for further information).

The more detailed descriptions of EVCs are found in Regional Forest Agreement Biodiversity reports or Study Area reports. Unpublished reports of some studies can be obtained from a member of the DSE Biodiversity team in the relevant DSE region.

Floristic Communities are the level at which listings under the Victorian Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 are required.

## Maps

EVCs have been mapped across the whole of Victoria, originally for forest planning and developing a Comprehensive and Adequate Reserve system. The scale of mapping has generally been 1:100,000 scale and therefore is not accurate if enlarged beyond this, ie to 1:50,000 or 1: 25,000.

Some of the EVC units on the maps are combinations:

Mosaic – a map unit of two or more EVCs that could be separately mapped at a finer scale.

Complex – a map unit of two or more EVCs that cannot be distinguished on ground, due to lack of remnant vegetation or distinguishing features of the landscape.

To view the distribution of EVCs across the State and in your area of interest see the Biodiversity Interactive Maps on the DSE web site: [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

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## EVC bioregional conservation status -

Bioregions are large planning units used at the National and State scale. They capture the patterns of ecological characteristics in the landscape or seascapes.

DSE have assessed the Conservation Status of EVCs in a particular bioregion using a standard set of criteria (Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework 2000). Assessment of the conservation status of vegetation types is traditionally based on the broad concepts of inherent rarity, degree of threat (including consideration of historic and on-going impacts) and importance for supporting other significant features (for example, as a drought refuge for native fauna).

Conservation Status categories:

*Presumed extinct* – Probably no longer present in the bioregion **OR** if present, below the resolution of available mapping.

*Endangered* – less than 10% of former range **OR** less than 10% pre-European extent remains (or a combination of depletion, loss of quality, current threats and rarity that gives a comparable status e.g. 10 to 30% pre-European extent remains and severely degraded)

*Vulnerable* – 10 to 30% pf pre-European extent remains (or a combination of depletion, loss of quality, current threats and rarity that gives a comparable status e.g. greater than 30% and up to 50% to 30% pre-European extent remains and moderately degraded over a majority of this area)

*Depleted* – greater than 30% and up to 50% of pre-European extent remains (or a combinations of depletion, loss of quality, current threats and rarity that gives a comparable status e.g. greater than 54% pre-European extent remains and moderately degraded over a majority of this area)

*Rare* – as defined by geographical occurrence as being naturally small in area and/or of very limited distribution, but neither depleted, degraded nor currently threatened to an extent that would qualify as endangered, vulnerable or depleted.

*Least Concern* – greater than 50% or pre-European extent exists and subject to little to no degradation over the majority of this area. **NOTE:** These areas are still of high importance for the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

**Threatened EVCs** – Where the EVCs covers a number of bioregions and those bioregions have a number of different conservation status, for the purposes of these Information Sheets, those EVCs are just called "Threatened".

## **Important Note**

The management tips outlined in the information sheets are intended to be a guide only and, where possible and necessary, further advice should be sought from DSE, DPI, CMA and/or TfN staff.

For further information or questions about the EVC Information Sheets contact either the GBCMA Biodiversity Manager on 5820 1100, or the DSE Biodiversity Team Leader or GB CMA Biodiversity Projects Coordinator on 5761 1611.