

# The natural vegetation of the Burragorang 1:100 000 map sheet

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## Abstract

*Fisher, Mark<sup>1</sup>, Ryan, Kate<sup>1</sup> and Lembit, Roger<sup>2</sup>. (<sup>1</sup>National Herbarium of New South Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 2000; <sup>2</sup>PO Box 294, Springwood, 2777) 1995. The natural vegetation of the Burragorang 1:100 000 map sheet. *Cunninghamia* 4(2): 143–215.* The composition and extent of the present natural vegetation of the Burragorang 1:100 000 map sheet 8929 (bounded by latitude 34°00'S 34°30'S, longitude 150°00'E 150°30'E) are mapped and described in terms of structure and characteristic species. The study area, south-west of Sydney and about 268 000 ha in area, includes the Burragorang valley, and much of the catchments of the lower Wollondilly, Wingecarribee, Nattai, Little, Kowmung and Tonalli Rivers, which drain into Lake Burragorang, the lake formed behind Warragamba Dam, and subsequently into the Hawkesbury–Nepean system. A range of landscapes is included, from tablelands and rugged mountain ranges to undulating lands, river valleys and deep gorges. Relevant Local Government areas are Mulwaree, Oberon, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.

Thirty-one map units covering 44 plant communities are recognised and related to geology and physiography. Eucalypt woodlands and open-forests occur on soils on Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian metasediments and Permian and Triassic sandstones and shales. The north-eastern sandstone tablelands have a maritime climatic influence and the Sydney sandstone vegetation extends onto them from the north. In contrast, the south-western ranges are drier with woodlands similar to those of the western slopes. Floristic composition is influenced not only by the soils but also by altitude. The sandstone tablelands of the south-east rise gently into the Southern Highlands near Mittagong, with plant communities grading from those which contain warm-climate coastal species to those adapted to a cooler climate. Patches of mallee and montane heath occur on the shallowest, most skeletal soils. Taller forests are supported by the deeper volcanic loams.

The conservation reserve system includes three National Parks and three State Recreation Areas, which protect land mainly in the northern half of the map sheet. In the southern half of the map area the reserve system is much more limited and protection of the isolated remnants is inadequate. Land clearing and development of land for rural subdivisions remain as threats to native vegetation on private land. Native vegetation along the Lake Burragorang foreshores may be threatened by proposals to raise Warragamba Dam for flood mitigation or increasing water storage. Thirty-one species are listed as either rare, threatened or of botanical significance in terms of geographic distribution for the map area.

## Introduction

This paper, part of the Sydney Region Vegetation Map Series, describes the vegetation of the Burragorang 1:100 000 map sheet, an area of about 268 000 ha, south-west of Sydney. The area includes the Burragorang valley, and much of the catchments of the lower Wollondilly, Wingecarribee and Nattai Rivers, and includes a range of landscapes, from tablelands and rugged mountain ranges to undulating lands, river valleys and deep gorges. The main river systems, the Wollondilly, Wingecarribee, Nattai, Little, Kowmung and Tonalli Rivers, drain into Lake Burragorang, the lake formed behind Warragamba Dam, and subsequently into the Hawkesbury-Nepean system.

Formerly a rural valley and tourist area, the Burragorang Valley, west of Camden, was flooded following the construction of Warragamba Dam in the 1950s and since then much of the area has been cut off from public access as part of the Water Board Catchment. The immediate catchment area, and the extremely rugged and inaccessible land to the north and west of it, constitute a large tract of wilderness that has generally escaped large-scale changes by European settlement — the valleys of the Tonalli and the Kowmung Rivers, the Burragorang, Nattai and Lacys Tablelands and the Boyd and Scotts Main Ranges. Here a complex of eucalypt woodlands and open-forests, with pockets of rainforest, heathlands, shrublands and wetlands, reflect the diverse geology and topography. In sharp contrast to the northern half of the map sheet area, much of the southern half, the Southern Highlands landscapes of Mittagong and Berrima, and the valley of the Wollondilly, have been cleared for agriculture owing to the fertility of the soil and the suitable undulating landscapes.

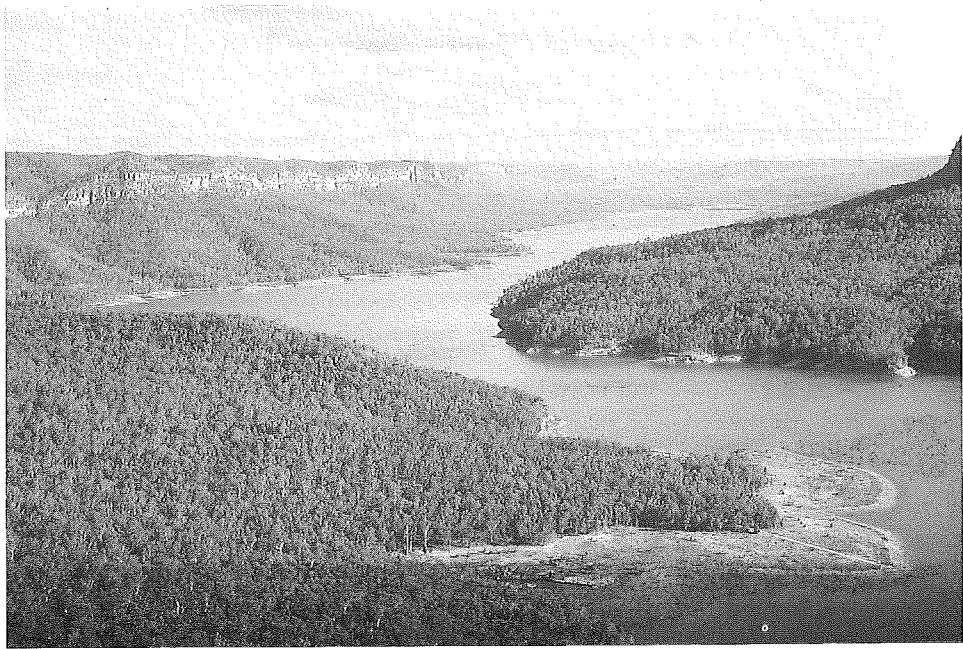
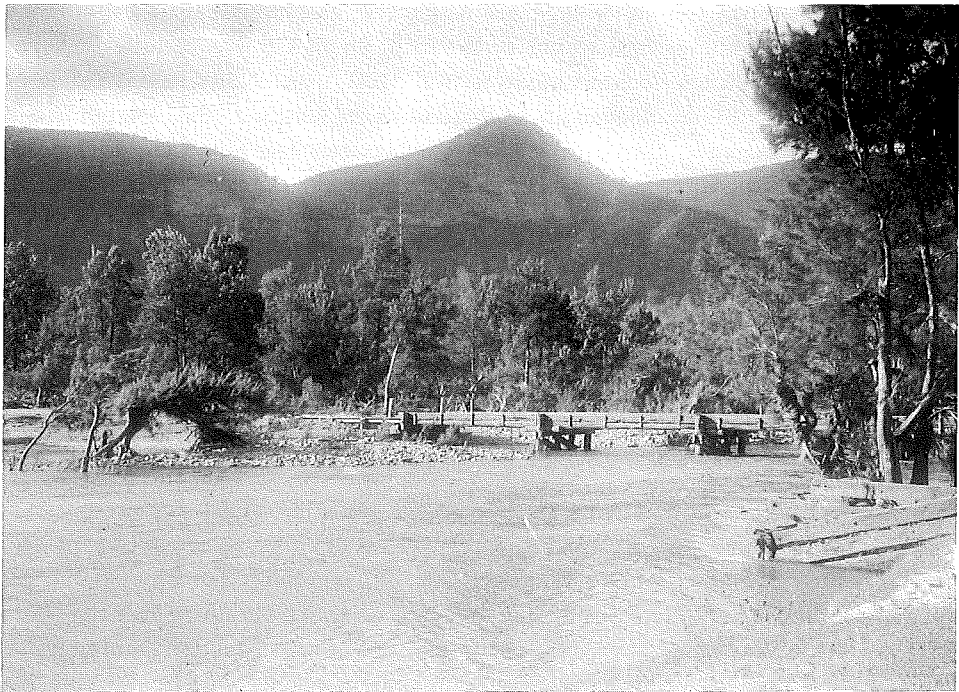


Figure 1. Lake Burragorang looking up Wollondilly arm, Wanganderry Walls on left



**Figure 2.** The Wollondilly River with its banks of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* in 1952 before flooding by Lake Burragorang.

Here pockets of native vegetation are scattered across the cultivated and grazed rural lands of a landscape often purported as 'English' with its improved green pastures and windbreaks and plantings of exotic trees.

### Geography

The Burragorang 1:100 000 vegetation sheet (based on the Australian 1:100 000 Topographic Survey sheet Burragorang 8929 AUSLIG, Canberra) covers the 1:25 000 Topographic Survey sheets Burragorang, Nattai, Hilltop, Mittagong, Hanworth, Barrallier, Bindook and Yerranderie. The Burragorang sheet is bounded by latitudes 34°00'S and 34°30'S and longitudes 150°30'E and 150°00'. The eastern boundary of the study area runs east of Oakdale, Hilltop and Mittagong and west of Camden; the western boundary, east of Wombeyan Caves and the Great Dividing Range; the northern boundary cuts across Lake Burragorang and Boyd Plateau and the southern boundary runs south of Bowral and Mittagong. Relevant Local Government areas are Mulwaree, Oberon, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly. The area falls within the Counties of Camden, Westmoreland and, to a lesser extent, Argyle.

The Burragorang area is part of the Eastern Botanical Division of New South Wales and includes the two Botanical Subdivisions, Central Coast and Central Tablelands. Many of the plant communities identified in the study area extend beyond the map boundaries into surrounding map sheets, Katoomba, Wollongong, Moss Vale and Taralga 1:100 000 sheets.

The largest towns in the study area are Mittagong and Bowral in the Southern Highlands in the south-eastern corner of the map. Smaller towns include Berrima, Hilltop, Colo Vale, Aylmerton and Medway in the south, and Nattai and Oakdale in the north. In the south, Wombeyan Caves Road links the west with the east; but in the north, Lake Burrarorang cuts off public access between east and west. A Sydney Water road runs along part of the lake from the Nattai River to the southwest. Yerranderie, a former silver-mining town on the western side of Lake Burrarorang, is accessible via Oberon or Taralga. Approximately one-third of the study area, which includes all the land bordering the water storage of Lake Burrarorang, lies within the Sydney Water Catchment Area. The land west of the lake is part of Blue Mountains or Kanangra-Boyd National Parks. Nattai Tablelands, south of the lake, are part of Nattai National Park. There are also three State Recreation Areas: Burrarorang; Yerranderie; and Bargo. The southern half of the map is largely freehold. An account of the early history and development of the Wollondilly area is given in Craft (1932).

Dominant physiographic features in the Burrarorang area include: Lake Burrarorang, an artificially drowned river valley; East and West Nattai Walls, the sheer escarpment faces marking the edges of the Wanganderry, Burrarorang, Tonalli and Nattai Tablelands; the Wollondilly River Valley, which is an incised winding trench 600 m deep in parts, meandering its way from the south up to feed Lake Burrarorang; the deeply dissected landscape of the Kowmung Valley, a rugged wilderness; and the Boyd Plateau, a granite tableland rising above the surrounding dissected Kowmung Valley, its rocks having withstood erosive processes better than the surrounding valleys' sedimentary rocks. An interesting account of the physiography of the Wollondilly River basin is given in Craft (1928a) and the Cox-Wollondilly area in Craft (1928b).

### Geology and geomorphology

The extensive Triassic sandstone plateau, characteristic of the Sydney Basin, dominates the eastern half of the study area (NSW Dept of Mines 1966). It consists of Hawkesbury and Narrabeen Group sandstones and rises from an altitude of 500 m in the north, near Oakdale, to approximately 750 m in the south, just north of Mittagong. The sandstone strata remain largely horizontal, and have been dissected by the Nattai and Little Rivers and the Wollondilly River (before its valley was dammed and flooded to form Lake Burrarorang). These river systems have incised the sandstone plateau to form a series of sandstone-topped tablelands, the Wanganderry, Nattai, Burrarorang and Tonalli Tablelands (Figure 4).

Several rock types may overlie the Triassic sandstone. Where the Triassic sandstone plateau is broad and high, as in the Southern Highlands, Triassic Wianamatta Group shale caps persist. Mittagong, Aylmerton, Mandemar Flats and Soapy Flats are on shale cappings. Other rock types overlying the Triassic sandstone include Tertiary igneous outcrops in the south around Mittagong, such as Mount Jellore, Mount Flora, Mount Gibraltar and Mount Misery, which are trachyte peaks; and in the north, near Yerranderie, are the basalt caps of Mount Shivering and Mount Colong.



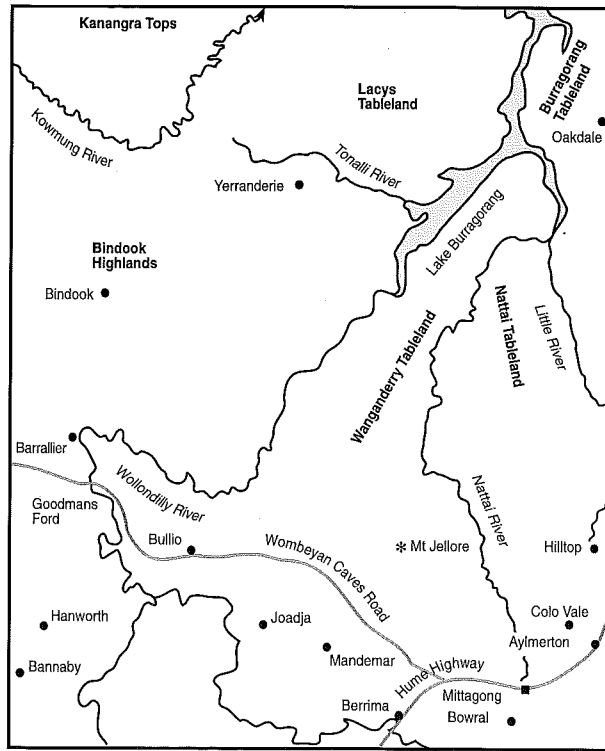


Figure 3. Major localities for the Burragorang 1:100 000 map sheet.



Figure 4. The sandstone cliffs of the Wanganderry Walls with the Douglas Scarp in foreground.

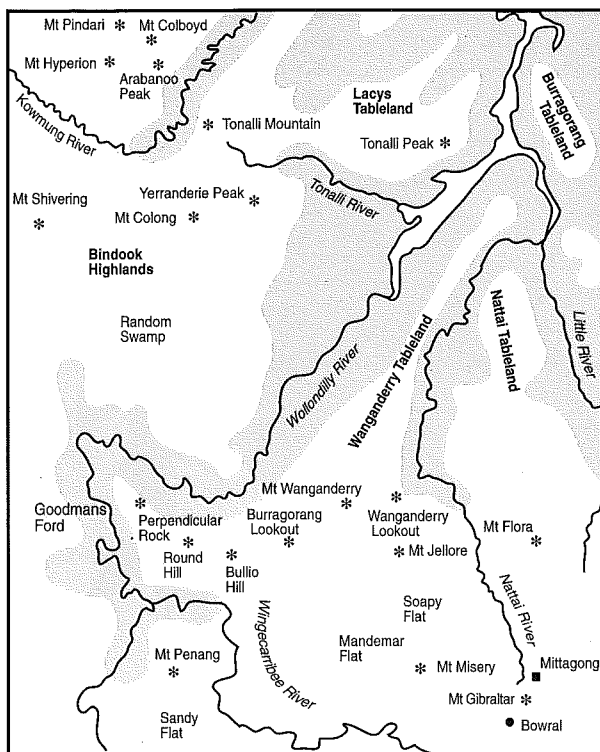
Underlying the Triassic sandstone strata, having been exposed in the downcutting processes of streams, the Permian Illawarra Coal Measures form a narrow band below the cliff line and include shales, sandstones, conglomerates and chert with coal and torbanite seams (New South Wales Department of Mines, 1966). The rapid weathering of these softer rocks undercuts the more resistant Triassic sandstones above, leading to the collapse along joint lines and the formation of spectacular cliffs, for example East and West Nattai Walls. While most of the Illawarra Coal Measures are restricted to a narrow band below clifflines, a number of exposed residual cappings also occur in the north-west of the study area atop Shoalhaven Group sandstones. Examples of this include Mootik Plateau and Tonalli Mountain.

At the base of the escarpment, below the Illawarra Coal Measures, streams have downcut further into the rock profile to expose Permian Shoalhaven Group sandstones and sediments. Foreshores of Lake Burragorang and the valley floors of the Nattai and Little Rivers are made up of siltstones, shales and sandstones of the Shoalhaven Group. The Bindook Highlands, west of Lake Burragorang, are a residual capping of Shoalhaven Group sediments.

To the west and south of the Triassic sandstone strata are the older Devonian and Silurian strata which have complex faults and folds throughout. The Devonian Lambie Group, which underlies the Permian Shoalhaven Group sandstones, outcrops to occupy a large area in the Kowmung Valley and the Boyd Range. These are composed of quartzites, sandstones, siltstones and shales and have been sculptured by the Kowmung River into a very rugged country. The deep valleys of the Kowmung are steep-sided and are separated by flat-topped ridges. Peaks include Arabanoo Peak (797 m), Mount Savage (937 m), Mount Colboyd (1004 m) and Mount Pindari (1080 m). Kowmung Valley floors are about 350–400 m a.s.l. In the north-west corner of the map, separating the Devonian from the Permian sandstone, lie the oldest rocks in the study area, the Silurian slates, phyllites, sandstones and limestones which occur as deep layers of dipping sediments.

The study area also contains igneous rocks intruding the strata of the sedimentary rocks. Tertiary volcanics have already been mentioned. There is a large Carboniferous granite outcrop on the Boyd Plateau in the far north-western corner of the study area that stands above the rugged surrounding sedimentary landscape as a massive, solid raised plateau. The rock type has given rise to a plateau with a more even topography, with low relief and open valleys.

Most of the western half of the study area is composed of porphyries and acid pyroclastics of the Bindook Porphyry Complex, an extensive, heavily-weathered volcanic complex of Devonian age. It mostly forms an undulating landscape, as in the rolling hills of Bannaby and Hanworth, with moderately steep ranges such as Joorilands Range in the north. A more rugged and inaccessible porphyry landscape occurs west of Bullio, where peaks and ridges are between 500 m and 800 m, as at Bullio Hill, Perpendicular Rock and Round Hill, and valleys at 300 m, as at Goodmans Ford.



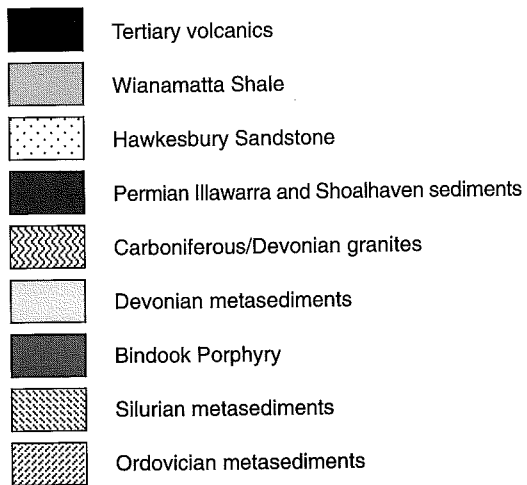
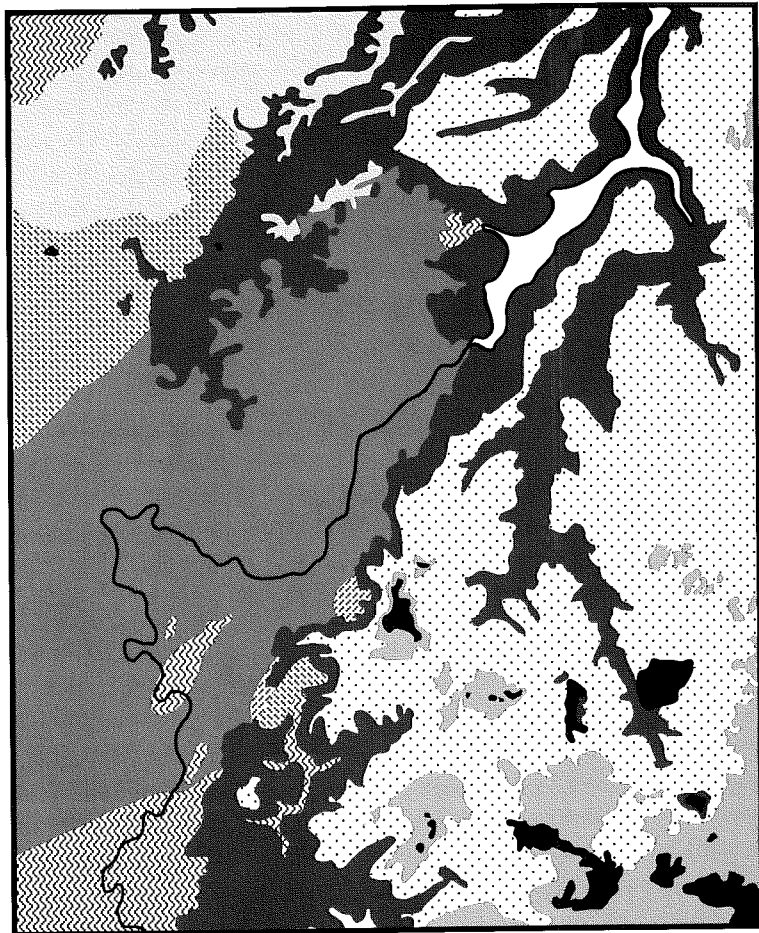
**Figure 5.** Topography of the Burragarang 1:100 000 map sheet showing country below 600 m (shaded) and above (unshaded).

## Soils

Soils of the Burragarang 1:100 000 map sheet largely reflect geology (Hamilton 1976). Soils derived from Triassic Sandstones are sandy, yellow, leached, gradational soils with ironstone gravel. They are rapidly permeable, very acid and infertile and are common on low-relief, flatter parts of the sandstone tablelands. Where relief is higher, as at Mt Nattai, grey-brown and yellow-brown uniform sands develop.

Where remnant cappings of Wianamatta Shale occur on the sandstone tablelands, hardsetting loamy red and yellow texture contrast soils (with ironstone gravel) occur. These soils are moderately to slowly permeable, very acid and relatively infertile. On the true shale country further south, near Mittagong, clay loam red gradational soils have developed.

Tertiary igneous outcrops in the south-eastern portion of the study area, such as Mount Jellore and Mount Flora, support clay loam brown and red structured friable soils. These are moderately to slowly permeable, slightly acid to neutral with high fertility.



**Figure 6.** Geology of the Burratorang 1:100 000 map sheet (based on NSW Department of Mines 1966)

Where streams have incised the Triassic sandstone tablelands to expose valleys of Permian Shoalhaven Group sandstones, hardsetting sandy loam yellow texture contrast soils have developed. These are relatively infertile soils, acid and moderately to slowly permeable. They are widespread in the study area, occurring on flats and slopes between the larger streams and the escarpment walls. They also occur further west on Bindook Highlands.

In the north-west, soils derived from Silurian and Devonian substrates are loamy yellow leached gradational soils, moderately to slowly permeable, acid and low in fertility. These are adjacent to the sandy loam red-brown gradational soils derived from Carboniferous granite of the Boyd Plateau. These are deep, rapidly permeable in the upper horizons, acid and are low to moderate in fertility.

The Devonian Bindook porphyry, occurring widely in the western half of the study area supports hardsetting, loamy, red, texture-contrast soils. Where the landscape is more undulating, areas have been extensively cleared owing to the relatively fertile nature of the soil and its suitability for agriculture; on steeper slopes the vegetation has been left uncleared.

## Climate

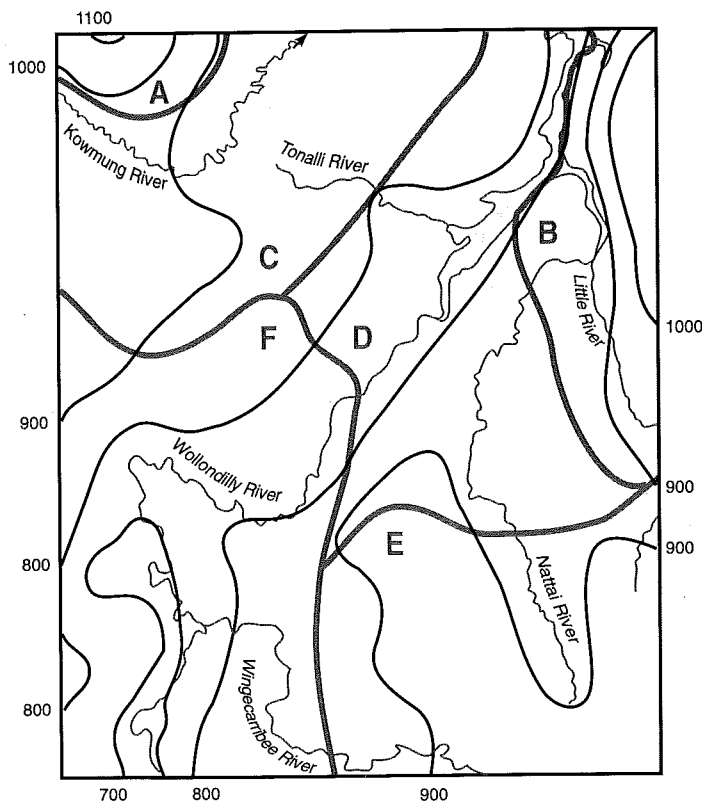
Altitude, topography and the degree of maritime influence account for substantial regional climatic variation. Six broad climatic regions can be recognised in the area (Figure 7):

1. the high-altitude (1100–1200 m a.s.l.) plateau and ranges of Boyd Plateau and Kanangra Tops in the north-west;
2. the north-east sandstone tablelands (500–600 m a.s.l.), represented by the climatic data of Camden;
3. the Bindook highlands in the north-west (800–880 m a.s.l.), Yerranderie (600 m a.s.l.) and the Kowmung Valley (400–900 m a.s.l.) represented by the climatic data of Yerranderie;
4. the low-lying valleys (140–180 m a.s.l.) of the Wollondilly, Little and Nattai Rivers;
5. the Southern Highlands (600–700 m a.s.l.) represented by the climatic data of Mittagong;
6. the drier country of the south-west (670–770 m a.s.l.) mainly to the west of the Wollondilly River, represented by the climatic data of Hanworth (Bureau of Meteorology 1979).

Altitude exerts a strong influence on temperature across the study area. The broad low-lying valleys around Lake Burragorang (region D) are generally warmer (average annual minimum–maximum temperature, 9–23°C) than the higher elevation Bindook Highlands and Yerranderie (region C, 7–21°C), the Southern Highlands (region E, 7–19°C) and the high-altitude Boyd Plateau (region A, 7–18°C). A temperature gradient

related to altitude is also evident from Camden in the north (region B) which has a mean summer maximum of 29°C and a mean winter minimum of 3°C, decreasing with elevation to Mittagong (region E) which has a mean summer maximum of 25°C and a mean winter minimum of 2.5°C.

Lying wholly on the eastern side of the coastal ranges and, in common with the rest of north-eastern New South Wales, the study area receives the greatest amount of rainfall in the hottest part of the year (Table 1). The dry porphyry country in the south-west (region F), however, has a more even spread of lower rainfall. A rainshadow effect is most pronounced in the Bindook Highlands and Yerranderie (region C), which lie behind the south-western margin of the Blue Mountains. The Boyd Plateau (region A) (1000 m elevation), the most elevated area, receives the highest rainfall (1100 mm p.a.). In the southern half of the map (regions E and F), variation in rainfall is primarily a function of the declining maritime influence from east to west: rainfall decreases steadily from 900 mm p.a. in the east near Mittagong in the Southern Highlands to 680 mm p.a. in the west near Hanworth. The south-western corner of the map area (the dry porphyry country of Hanworth and the Wollondilly Valley, region F) receives the least rainfall (679 mm p.a.).



**Figure 7.** Rainfall isohyets (mm) and climatic regions on the Burragarong 1:100 000 map sheet A) high-altitude Boyd Plateau and Kanangra Tops, B) North-east sandstone tablelands, C) Bindook highlands and Kowmung valley, D) Lowlying valley of the Wollondilly, Nattai & Little River, E) Southern Highlands and F) the drier country of the south-west.



**Table 1. Average monthly and annual rainfall (mm) for four climatic regions of Burratorang 1:100 000 map. (Source: Bureau of Meteorology, 1979.)**

Location	Latitude / Longitude	Years of Record	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Year
Camden	34°04'S 150°42'E	87	85	77	81	67	58	68	57	44	39	51	67	73	764
Yerranderie	34°07'S 150°12'E	32	105	96	91	66	70	78	56	32	45	51	64	90	844
Mittagong	34°24'S 150°29'E	63	91	82	83	76	76	84	77	54	54	68	64	84	893

**Table 2. Sources of data used in preparation and completion of Burratorang 1:100 000 vegetation sheet**

Source	Year	Information	Scale
NSW Dept of Lands	1972	Aerial photomosaics	1:50 000
NSW Dept of Lands	1972, 1982	Black & white aerial photos	1:50 000
Australian Centre for Remote Sensing	March, 1992	LANDSAT TM satellite imagery	1:100 000
NSW Dept of Mines	1966	Wollongong Geology sheet	1:250 000
Central Mapping Authority of NSW	1982-1984	Topographic maps	1:25 000 1:100 000
Soil Conservation Service of NSW	1985	Soil map	1:100 000

## Methods

The vegetation survey and map production is based on information from earlier surveys together with aerial photography, satellite imagery, field checking and site-based data collection. Early vegetation surveys include Cabbage (1911), who made notes on the native vegetation from Camden to Burragorang and Mt Werong and Ilma Pidgeon's general vegetation survey of Central Coastal NSW (Pidgeon 1937, 1938, 1940, 1941). Surveys of specific areas include the native vegetation of Mount Jellore (Benson 1979); the vegetation of the Boyd Plateau (Black 1982); and the vegetation of the Kanangra-Boyd National Park (Steenbeeke 1990). The southern half of the sheet is based on a provisional vegetation map (Benson 1984) incorporating work by other Royal Botanic Gardens staff Martin Cooper and Stephen Powrie, including vegetation surveys for the construction of Freeway No. 5 (Cooper, Powrie & Benson 1983). Roger Lembit's contribution draws upon his extensive field knowledge of the area gained over the past 15 years.

Recent reconnaissance fieldwork was carried out in 1993-4 to identify broad vegetation patterns and their relation to geology and topography. This allowed preparation for air-photo interpretation, wherein areas of vegetation with similar structure (as defined by Specht 1970) and floristics (dominant species), were grouped to form map units on the basis of photo-patterns from air photos and recognisable geological and landscape characteristics. Black and white 1:50 000 aerial photographs (1982) and LANDSAT™ imagery (1:100 000, 1991) were used in combination with topographical, geological and soil maps to determine plant community boundaries. Particular criteria adopted in air photo interpretation included tree height, crown shape, size, density and cover. Sources of information used in the compilation of maps are listed in Table 2.

Sampling sites were selected within each of the recognised plant communities and then marked onto the air photos and topographic maps in preparation for field work. Field work was carried out between April and December, 1993 sites were sampled and community boundaries checked and confirmed. Rugged topography and restricted access confined sampling to sites along roads and firetrails. Quadrats conformed to the standard Royal Botanic Gardens site-sampling, including a 20 m x 20 m quadrat, a list of all vascular plant species present within the sampling area, percentage cover of each species, the number and height of each strata, soil type, landform, geology and disturbance factors for every site. Data from the quadrats was included in the community descriptions and species list.

On the final vegetation map, an alphanumeric code is used to distinguish individual plant communities. The numeric code represents the structural form of the plant community and the alphabetic code refers to either the dominant species of the tallest stratum or the geological type which supports the community. Map units have also been provided with common names based loosely on habitat and composition, for ease of reference. The codes used are consistent throughout the

Sydney Region 1:100 000 Vegetation Map Series, allowing map units to be cross-referenced (e.g. with Keith & Benson 1988). Provisional vegetation maps were drafted at the 1:25 000 scale and reduced to 1:100 000 scale.

The vegetation map is a diagrammatic attempt to simplify the distribution patterns of an often rich and varied flora, over an extensive region. The scale of the mapping and time constraints allow detailed treatment of the dominant canopy and understorey species only. It is scale-dependent and map units will almost invariably include unmapped areas of other map units too small to be shown separately. Similarly, most plant communities do not have clear-cut boundaries but grade into each other, often over a broad ecotone. For mapping purposes such boundaries have to be represented by a line.

There are a number of constraints in reducing the complex pattern of natural vegetation to a map format. The map units recognised are not all of equivalent rank. Some are essentially land units made up of several plant communities associated with a particular geological or physiographic type (e.g. map units 10ar and 10ag, 6hd and 6h m, 10q) whereas others are more clearly individual plant associations (*sensu* Beadle & Costin, 1952) (eg. map units 6g and 10mr). Generally the term 'plant community' is used for the component associations of the vegetation map unit.

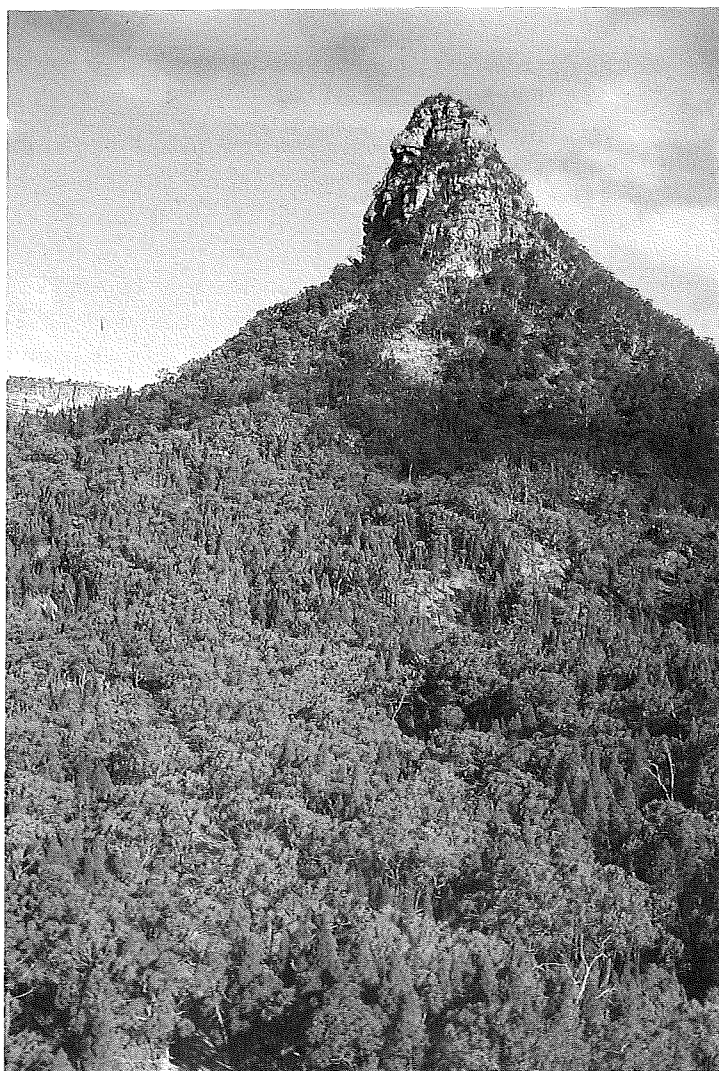
Species lists for plant communities (Appendix A) were compiled from our fieldwork and quadrats as well as from the surveys of Steenbeeke (1990), Benson (1979) and Benson (1984). Lists of rare and endangered species were compiled from the national ROTAP listing maintained by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service together with reference to specimens at the National Herbarium of New South Wales. Botanical names used are those currently recognised at the National Herbarium of New South Wales. For authorities see Harden (1990-93).

## Vegetation

### Description of map units

Thirty-one map units have been recognised on the Burragorang 1:100 000 map sheet, with 44 plant communities. Cleared areas have also been recognised. Approximately one-sixth of the map-sheet has been cleared. Early settlement and clearing in the map area were concentrated in the south-east corner where the clay soils derived from the shales were more suitable for agriculture. The lower parts of the Burragorang valley were cleared and grazed but the upper slopes remained largely undisturbed until subsequently flooded to form Lake Burragorang.

The structural formation, main canopy species, geology, altitude and distribution for each plant community are shown in Table 3 and depicted in the 1:100 000 vegetation map accompanying this text. A description of each plant community follows. A list of native species is given in Appendix A.



**Figure 8.** The sandstone-topped Yerranderie Peak with *Callitris endlicheri* on the lower slopes.

Table 3. Map unit, common name, structure, main canopy species, main canopy species, geology, altitude and location of plant communities in the area covered by the Burragorang 1:100 000 map sheet

MAP UNIT	STRUCTURE	MAIN CANOPY SPECIES	GEOLOGY	ALTITUDE	OCCURRENCE
6g	Moist Basalt Cap Forest Tall open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> <i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i>	Tertiary Basalt caps	>800 m	Mount Colong Mount Shivering
6hd	Dry Escarpment Forest Complex Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> <i>Angophora costata</i>	Illawarra & Shoalhaven Group sediments	300–500 m	N–NW escarpment faces: (gullies & sheltered slopes)
	Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> <i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> <i>Angophora floribunda</i>			Drier spurs
6hm	Moist Escarpment Forest Complex Tall open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus deanei</i> <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> <i>Eucalyptus hypostomatica</i> <i>Eucalyptus agglomerata</i>	Illawarra & Shoalhaven Group sediments	300–500 m	S–SE escarpment faces: (gullies & sheltered slopes)
	Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> <i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i> <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>			Drier, more exposed spurs, foothills
6k	Robertson Basalt Tall Forest Tall open-forest/ open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i> <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> <i>Eucalyptus elata</i>	Robertson basalt	650–700 m	Remnants near Mittagong, Bowral

d	<b>Kowmung Dry Rainforest</b> Closed-forest	<i>Toona ciliata</i> <i>Dendrocnide excelsa</i> <i>Alectryon subcinereus</i>	Devonian metasediments	300-700 m	Deep, narrow, sheltered gullies of Kowmung Valley
9i	<b>Blue Mountains Sandstone</b> Plateau Forest Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>	Triassic and Permian sediments	800-1150 m	Dissected sandstone plateaus
9n	<b>Montane Moist Forest</b> Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i> <i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i> subsp. <i>dalrympleana</i> <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Lamble Group Carboniferous granite	>700 m	Steep slopes & moist sheltered gullies
9to	<b>Taralga Ordovician Forest</b> Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus agglomerata</i> <i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i> <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> <i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>	Ordovician sediments	650-800 m	Dissected Ordovician sediments west of Barrallier and Bindook Highlands
9w	<b>Wingecarribee Forest</b> Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> <i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i> <i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>	Permian Illawarra Coal Measures	500-750 m	Upper slopes of Wingecarribee valley, Joadja plateau and Sandy Flat
9x	<b>River Oak Forest</b> Open-forest	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> subsp. <i>cunninghamiana</i>	Quaternary alluvium	<400 m	Wollondilly, Nattai, Kowmung and Little Rivers



9y	<b>Mount Gibraltar Forest</b> Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> <i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> subsp. <i>radiata</i> <i>Eucalyptus smithii</i>	Volcanic outcrops	>700 m	Mount Gibraltar, Mount Misery, Cockatoo Hill
	Low woodland	<i>Eucalyptus blaxlandii</i> <i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Trachyte	700 m	Mount Jellore
10ag	<b>Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest</b> Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> <i>Eucalyptus agglomerata</i> <i>Angophora costata</i>	Triassic Hawkesbury and Narrabeen Group Sandstone	<700 m	Sheltered slopes & gullies on plateaus
10ar	<b>Sydney Sandstone Ridggetop Woodland</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus sclerophylla</i> <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> <i>Eucalyptus gummifera</i>	Triassic Hawkesbury and Narrabeen Group Sandstone	<700 m	Exposed slopes & ridges on plateaus
10bh	<b>Bindook Highlands Woodland</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus sparsifolia</i>	Shoalhaven Group sediments	800-900 m	Bindook Highlands, ridges, exposed slopes with shallow soils
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i>			Ridges, exposed slopes with deeper soils
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> subsp. <i>radiata</i> <i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i> <i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i>			Cold, sheltered slopes with deeper soils

10dw	<b>Douglas Scarp Woodland</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> <i>Callitris endlicheri</i> <i>Acacia binervia</i>	Shoalhaven Group sediments	140-200 m	Exposed escarpment edge
10l	<b>Snow Gum Woodland</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i> <i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i> subsp. <i>dalrympleana</i>	Devonian Kanangra Granite & Loombah quartzite	>1000 m	Loombah & Boyd Plateaus
10mr	<b>Montane Ridge Woodland</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> subsp. <i>radiata</i> <i>Eucalyptus dives</i> <i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>	Ordovician and Silurian sediments	850-1200 m	Ridges and exposed slopes east of the Great Dividing Range Fire Trail
10p	<b>Kowmung Wilderness Complex</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> <i>Eucalyptus agglomerata</i>	Devonian & Silurian sediments	300-1000 m	Ridges & drier aspects, Kowmung valley
	Tall open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i> <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> <i>Angophora floribunda</i>			Gullies & sheltered aspects, Kowmung area
10pw	<b>Porphyry Box Woodland</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>  <i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> <i>Eucalyptus albens</i>	Bindook Porphyry complex	200-800 m	Valleys & ridges of the dissected country

10q	<b>Burragarang Ironbark Woodland</b>								
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> <i>Eucalyptus eugenoides</i> <i>Eucalyptus sclerophylla</i> <i>Angophora bakeri</i>	Shoalhaven Group sediments	300–570 m	Lake foreshores, below escarpment slopes & undulating hills, west of Lake Burragarang Junction of Nattai River and Lake Burragarang				
	Woodland	<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i>			Sheltered sites				
10r	<b>Residual Sandstone Woodland</b>								
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus blaxlandii</i>	Shoalhaven Group sediments	800–1000 m	Bindook Highlands				
10s	<b>Montane Woodland</b>								
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> subsp. <i>radiata</i> <i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i> subsp. <i>dalrympleana</i>	Carboniferous Granite & Lambie Group sediments	>900 m	High-altitude undulating country				
10w	<b>Joadja Stringybark Woodland</b>								
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus agglomerata</i> <i>Eucalyptus eugenoides</i>	Shoalhaven Group sediments	600–700 m	Slopes of Wingecarribee Valley				
	Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus elata</i>		500–550 m	River-flats				
10x	<b>Southern Highlands Shale Woodlands</b>								
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i> <i>Eucalyptus quadrangulata</i> <i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>	Wianamatta Shale	600–700 m	Remnants on shale caps south from Aylmerton				
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i> <i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i> subsp. <i>amplifolia</i>			Poorly-drained sites				
	Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus cinerea</i> <i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>			Mandemar area				

10z	<b>Mittagong Sandstone Woodland</b> Woodland	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> <i>Eucalyptus sclerophylla</i>	Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone	700-800 m	High-altitude sandstone table and around Mittagong
	Open-forest	<i>Eucalyptus smithii</i> <i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i> <i>Eucalyptus elata</i>		>500 m	Gullies at head of Nattai River
15z	<b>Wingecarribee Mallee</b> Low open-woodland	<i>Eucalyptus apiculata</i>	Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone	600-650 m	Restricted to exposed bedrock around Wingecarribee River
17a	<b>Teatree Scrub</b> Open-scrub	<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i> <i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>	Shoalhaven Group sediments	830 m	Random Swamp & Tomat Heights on Bindook Highlands
17m	<b>Range Mallee</b> Open-scrub	<i>Eucalyptus stricta</i> <i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Silurian Group sediments soils	1160 m	Loombah Plateau, ridges with skeletal
21c	<b>Montane Heath</b> Open-heath	<i>Eucalyptus stricta</i> <i>Allocasuarina nana</i> <i>Hakea dactyloides</i> <i>Leptospermum trinervium</i>	Permian & Triassic sediments	>1000 m	Boyd Plateau
	Open-heath	<i>Dracophyllum secundum</i> <i>Epacris calvertiana</i> <i>Gleichenia rupestris</i>			Moist cliff-faces
26b	<b>Boyd Plateau Bogs</b> Closed-segeland/ closed-heath/ open-heath	<i>Carex appressa</i> <i>Carex gaudichaudiana</i> <i>Restio australis</i>	Granite & quartzite	>1100m	Depressions in Boyd Plateau
C	<b>Cleared</b>				

## Plant community descriptions

### Map unit 6g

#### Moist basalt cap forest

##### Tall open-forest: *Eucalyptus viminalis* – *Eucalyptus fastigata*

The fertile clay-loams derived from the basalt caps of Mounts Colong (1047 m) and Shivering (1121 m) support a tall open-forest of *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *Eucalyptus fastigata*. Shrubs common in the understorey include *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Polyscias sambucifolia* and *Leucopogon lanceolatus*. *Lomandra longifolia* is the most common ground species, forming large scattered clumps. Other ground-cover species include *Geranium solanderi*, *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, *Galium gaudichaudii*, *Pratia purpurascens*, *Oplismenus aemulus*, *Dichondra repens*, *Stellaria flaccida* and *Stellaria pungens*. Common ferns include *Polystichum proliferum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Blechnum cartilagineum* and *Doodia aspera*.

Similar vegetation occurs further north on basalt caps in the Blue Mountains at Mt Wilson and Mt Tomah (Keith & Benson 1988) and west at Mt Werong (Fisher & Ryan 1994).

### Map unit 6hd

#### Dry Escarpment Forest Complex

The Dry and the Moist Escarpment Forest Complexes (map units 6hd and 6hm) are the southern continuation of the Escarpment Complex (map unit 6h of Keith & Benson 1988) along the western edge of the Triassic sandstone of the Blue Mountains. Dry Escarpment forest is an open-forest community on moderate to steep, N to NW facing slopes of the Permian Illawarra and Shoalhaven sediments that outcrop immediately below the Triassic sandstone escarpment. These slopes are drier and more exposed than their southern-facing counterparts. Soils are sandy and dry. Two sub-units can be recognised.

##### i) Open-forest: *Eucalyptus piperita* – *Angophora costata*

Gullies and their sheltered slopes are dominated by open-forest with *Eucalyptus piperita* and *Angophora costata*. *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and

*Angophora floribunda* occur occasionally. Floristically, this resembles the Hawkesbury Sandstone Complex (map units 10ag/10ar). Common understorey species include *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *Banksia serrata*, *Lambertia formosa*, *Persoonia linearis*, *Dillwynia retorta* and *Oxylobium ilicifolium*.

##### ii) Open-forest: *Eucalyptus punctata* – *Eucalyptus fibrosa* – *Angophora floribunda*

Open-forest with *Eucalyptus punctata*, *Angophora floribunda*, *Eucalyptus fibrosa* and *Acacia falciformis* occurs on drier spurs. *Eucalyptus agglomerata* occurs occasionally.

### Map unit 6hm

#### Moist Escarpment Forest Complex

Forests of the Moist Escarpment Complex occur on moderate to steep, south to south-east facing slopes below the Triassic Sandstone escarpment. They are supported by relatively deep, moist, well-drained, sandy, loams, with colluvial material from shales, sandstones and conglomerates. The soils are derived from the Permian Illawarra Coal Measures and, to a lesser extent, Shoalhaven Sandstones.

There are two sub-units within this community, floristics changing between the gullies and the spurs.

##### i) Tall open-forest: *Eucalyptus deanei* – *Syncarpia glomulifera* – *Eucalyptus hypostomatica* – *Eucalyptus agglomerata*

Tall open-forests occur on the sheltered escarpment slopes and gullies, receiving direct sunlight only in summer but diffuse sunlight all year round. Characteristic tree species include *Eucalyptus deanei* and *Syncarpia glomulifera*, which are common in the Thirlmere Lakes area; in the upper reaches of the Nattai and Little Rivers, *Eucalyptus agglomerata* and *Eucalyptus hypostomatica* also occur. There is generally a well-developed small-tree stratum to 10 m high of *Allocasuarina torulosa*. In the forest understorey in deep sheltered gullies, *Backhousia myrtifolia*, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* and *Notelaea longifolia* are abundant. *Acacia elata*, *Acacia falciformis* and

*Melaleuca styphelioides* are also frequent. Ground cover is predominantly of ferns, particularly *Pteridium esculentum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Doodia aspera* and *Polystichum proliferum*. Other common ground cover plants include *Pratia purpurascens*, *Dichondra repens*, *Dianella caerulea* and *Lomandra longifolia*.

Restricted to alluvial soils along the Nattai and Little River valleys, tall forests of *Eucalyptus deanei* and *Eucalyptus elata* occur (Lembit 1989). Canopy height is between 25 and 30 m. A tall shrub layer of medium density contains species such as *Acacia parramattensis*, *Allocasuarina torulosa* and *Acacia decurrens*. Occasional rainforest species including *Doryphora sassafras*, *Callicoma serratifolia*, *Ficus coronata* and *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* occur. Ground layer vegetation includes grasses and ferns such as *Microlaena stipoides*, *Poa affinis*,

*Oplismenus aemulus*, *Calochloena dubia* and *Doodia aspera*.

**ii) Open-forest: *Eucalyptus crebra* – *Eucalyptus punctata* – *Eucalyptus eugenioides* – *Eucalyptus piperita***

The tall open-forests of the gullies grade into open-forests on the drier spurs of the escarpment foothills, as sites become drier and more exposed. Common tree species on these south to south-east facing spurs include *Eucalyptus crebra*, *Eucalyptus punctata* and *Eucalyptus eugenioides* particularly on clay soils. *Eucalyptus piperita* occurs on more sandy soils while *Angophora floribunda* occurs occasionally on alluvium. Common understorey species include *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Olearia viscidula*, *Stypandra glauca*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Persoonia linearis* and *Lissanthe strigosa*.



**Figure 9.** Moist Escarpment Forest (map unit 6hm) with *Eucalyptus deanei* near the Little River.



**Map unit 6k****Robertson Basalt Tall Forest****Tall open-forest/open-forest:**

***Eucalyptus fastigata* – *Eucalyptus viminalis*  
– *Eucalyptus elata***

Small remnants of this once-widespread vegetation occur on the western, drier parts of the Robertson basalt, south of Mittagong. The main tree species, *Eucalyptus fastigata*, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Eucalyptus elata* and *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* have different habitat requirements and may occur locally as pure or almost pure stands. The understorey includes the grass *Poa labillardieri*, and native herbaceous species. Most of the fertile basalt soils, have been cleared and the ground layer replaced with introduced pasture species. Other remnants further east are taller, and more mesic, sometimes with a rainforest understorey (Benson & Howell 1994b, Kodala 1990).

**Map unit 8d****Kowmung Dry Rainforest**

**Closed-forest: *Toona ciliata* – *Dendrocnide excelsa* – *Alectryon subcinereus***

The Kowmung Wilderness in the north-western corner of the map sheet is characterised by gorges that cut down into the terrain some 450 m, for example near the Boyd Range where the Kowmung has eroded the range's sides from 1050 to 600 m. Here, small patches of rainforest occur on the sheltered lower slopes of deeply incised Devonian sediments, though the rainfall is only 250 mm p.a. Rainforest patches with *Toona ciliata*, *Dendrocnide excelsa* and *Alectryon subcinereus* occur on the dark, narrow valley floors of perennial streams and on sheltered, south-facing slopes. *Ehretia acuminata*, *Brachychiton populneum*, *Ficus rubiginosa*, *Claoxylon australe* and *Backhousia myrtifolia* are also common. Quantities of Red Cedar, *Toona ciliata* were cut from the wild slopes west of the Kowmung River early this century according to Craft (1932).

Where canopies are dense, there is a sparse understorey of shrubs, including *Hymenandra dentata*, *Rapanea howittiana*, *Notelaea longifolia*, *Trema aspera* and *Deeringia amaranthoides*. Further upslope where soils are not as moist as on the valley floor, shrub species such as

*Eriostemon myoporoides* and *Beyeria viscosa* occur. Vines and lianas are very common and include species such as *Rubus parvifolius*, *Aphanopetalum resinosum*, *Celastrus australis*, *Pandorea pandorana*, *Marsdenia flavescens*, *Marsdenia rostrata*, *Cissus hypoglauca* and *Cissus antarctica*. The herbaceous layer is characterised by species such as *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Adiantum formosum*, *Adiantum aethiopicum*, *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Doodia aspera*, *Pellaea falcata*, *Urtica incisa*, *Stellaria flaccida*, *Plectranthus parvifolius* and *Oplismenus aemulus*.

Kowmung Dry Rainforest extends further north onto the Katoomba map (Keith & Benson 1988, Steenbeeke 1990).

**Map unit 9i****Blue Mountains Sandstone Plateau Forest**

There are three major floristic groups associated with the sandstone landscapes in the map area:

1. Blue Mountains Sandstone Plateau Forest (map unit 9i) occurs at high altitudes (>800 m) and is the main vegetation of the upper Blue Mountains;
2. Mittagong Sandstone Woodland (map unit 10z) occurs at intermediate altitudes (700–800 m) and is the main vegetation of the Mittagong – Moss Vale area; and
3. Sydney Sandstone Complex (map units 10ag and 10ar) occurs at low altitudes (<700 m) and is the main vegetation of the Triassic sandstone of the Sydney area.

There is an overlap of species throughout these communities owing to similar characteristics between the Triassic sandstone (on which 10a, 10z and 9i occur on) and Permian sandstone (on which 9i also occurs on). For example *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Eucalyptus piperita* are common to all three communities. There is, however, a separation owing to altitude and this is expressed in the co-dominant and sub-dominant canopy species and the understorey which characterise the three communities. For example, co- and sub-dominants restricted to the low altitudes include *Angophora costata*, *Eucalyptus gummifera*, *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *Acacia linifolia* and *Hibbertia empetrifolia* while co- and sub-dominant species

restricted to the high altitudes include *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata*, *Eucalyptus mannifera* subsp. *gullickii*, *Banksia spinulosa* var. *cunninghamii*, *Persoonia chamaepeitys* and *Stellaria pungens*.

**Open-forest: *Eucalyptus sieberi* – *Eucalyptus piperita***

Blue Mountains Sandstone Plateau Forest, an open-forest of *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Eucalyptus piperita*, mainly occurs in the Blue Mountains at elevations of 800–1000m on Triassic Narrabeen sandstone (Keith & Benson 1988). The soils are shallow, sandy, low in nutrients and well-drained. In more sheltered situations, the *Eucalyptus sieberi* – *Eucalyptus piperita* open-forest is taller and includes other species such as *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata*. In more exposed areas Keith & Benson record trees of *Eucalyptus sclerophylla*, *Eucalyptus sparsifolia* and *Eucalyptus mannifera* subsp. *gullickii* with understorey shrubs including *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Petrophile pulchella*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *Banksia spinulosa* var. *cunninghamii*, *Persoonia chamaepeitys* and *Acacia terminalis*.

In the Burragorang area, this vegetation is restricted to the Permian sediments of the Bindook Highlands and the high plateaus just south and west of Yerranderie–Mootik Plateau, Tonalli Mountain, Mt Marrup and Yerranderie Peak. Elevation ranges from 800–1150 m.

**Map Unit 9n**

**Montane Moist Forest**

**Open-forest: *Eucalyptus fastigata* – *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* – *Eucalyptus viminalis***

Montane Moist Forests with *Eucalyptus fastigata*, *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* subsp. *dalrympleana* occur on folded Devonian sediments, Silurian metasediments and Kanangra Granite. It is common in the north-western part of the study area at elevations above 700 m which have a high rainfall (900–1100 mm p.a.). *Eucalyptus fastigata* occurs on the most fertile and sheltered sites, often in pure stands. *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* subsp. *dalrympleana* occurs on the poorer sites while *Eucalyptus viminalis* is most common along creek lines. *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* occurs on upper ridges.

Understorey shrubs are quite scattered and include *Acacia melanoxyton*, *Acacia implexa*, *Platysace lanceolata*, *Lomatia myricoides*, *Indigofera australis* and *Swainsona galegifolia*. The herb layer is continuous and includes species such as *Geranium potentilloides* var. *abditum*, *Stellaria pungens*, *Hydrocotyle laxiflora*, *Lomandra longifolia* and *Polystichum proliferum*. Grasses include *Dichelachne rara* and *Poa labillardieri*.

Similar vegetation is extensive on the Katoomba sheet (Keith & Benson 1988).

**Map unit 9to**

**Taralga Ordovician Forest**

**Open-forest: *Eucalyptus agglomerata* – *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* – *Eucalyptus punctata* – *Eucalyptus sieberi***

The deeply dissected Ordovician sediments (grey slate, quartz rich and feldspathic greywacke and andesite) of the south-west of the map area, west of Barrallier and the Bindook Highlands, support brown, sandy soils covered by open-forest. Stringybarks *Eucalyptus agglomerata* and *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, and *Eucalyptus sieberi* are widespread on broader ridges, on exposed western slopes and on rocky, cool sites. *Eucalyptus punctata* may also occur on broader ridges with the stringybarks but is particularly widespread on the moister slopes. It also persists into the gullies where it may grow as very large, tall trees. *Eucalyptus punctata* and *Eucalyptus sieberi* prefer higher rainfall areas. In the sheltered gullies and on the cool and moist slopes, *Eucalyptus dives* is the main canopy species.

Present to a lesser degree on the more fertile or deeper soils are *Eucalyptus melliodora* and *Eucalyptus blakelyi*. Shrub species here include *Acacia falciformis*, *Acacia melanoxyton*, *Acacia decurrens*, *Acacia dealbata*, *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, *Oxylobium ilicifolium*, *Bursaria spinosa* and *Stypandra glauca*.

On narrower and drier ridgetops and on the drier, western slopes, the open-forest grades into woodland. Here, *Eucalyptus rossii* is very common, occurring as low trees (up to 10 m high) and forming a very open canopy (approximately 10% cover). It commonly occurs in monospecific stands on the upper slopes and may grade into

*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* woodlands further down the slope where it is cooler. Woodlands of *Eucalyptus mannifera* may also occur on these drier western slopes but are less common than the woodlands of *Eucalyptus rossii*. Shrubs associated with the drier woodlands include *Leucopogon muticus*, *Leucopogon microphyllus*, *Acacia buxifolia*, *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Melichrus erubescens* and *Pomaderris andromedifolia*.

### Map unit 9w

#### Wingecarribee Forest

**Open-forest: *Eucalyptus sieberi* –  
*Eucalyptus punctata* – *Eucalyptus eugenioides* – *Eucalyptus mannifera***

On the upper slopes of the Wingecarribee River and on Joadja Plateau and Sandy Flat, between 600 and 750 m elevation, open-forests of *Eucalyptus sieberi*, *Eucalyptus punctata*, *Eucalyptus eugenioides* and *Eucalyptus mannifera* occur on soils from the Permian Illawarra Coal Measures. Understorey species include *Acacia obtusifolia*, *Acacia falciformis*, *Acacia decurrens*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Leptospermum arachnoides*, *Daviesia corymbosa*, *Bossiaea prostrata*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Lomatia ilicifolia*, *Persoonia linearis* and *Helichrysum scorpioides*.

### Map unit 9x

#### River Oak Forest

**Open-forest: *Casuarina cunninghamiana***

Alluvial soils, consisting of mobile gravels and sands, are associated with the major watercourses, Wollondilly, Nattai, Kowmung and Little Rivers, and support open-forest with *Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana* along the river channel and banks and *Angophora floribunda* further back from the watercourse. The understorey is quite sparse, consisting of a mixture of native and exotic (marked with \*) herbs and grasses, including *\*Coryza albida*, *\*Modiola caroliniana*, *\*Hypochaeris radicata*, *Persicaria decipiens*, *Opilismenus aemulus*, *\*Rumex crispus* and *Cynodon dactylon*. The shrub layer is sparse, consisting of scattered shrubs, including *Hymenanthera dentata*, *Acacia floribunda*, *Acacia longifolia*, *Acacia fimbriata* and *Bursaria spinosa*.

### Map unit 9y

#### Mount Gibraltar Forest

As well as the Robertson Basalt, there are outcrops of other volcanic rocks, solvsbergite, microsyenite, bostonite and trachyte (NSW Dept of Mines 1966) around Mittagong: at Mount Gibraltar, Mount Jellore, Mount Flora, Mount Misery and Cockatoo Hill. Much of this has been cleared, particularly as these outcrops are often associated with basalt areas but substantial vegetation still remains on microsyenite outcrops on Mount Gibraltar and on trachyte at Mount Jellore, with small remnants of vegetation on Mount Misery, Cockatoo Hill and Mount Flora.

**i) Open-forest: *Eucalyptus piperita* –  
*Eucalyptus radiata* – *Eucalyptus smithii***

The best example of this vegetation is on Mount Gibraltar where extensive areas of open-forest up to 25 m high with *Eucalyptus piperita* and *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* on the lower slopes, together with *Eucalyptus smithii* on the more exposed ridge. Understorey species are predominantly herbaceous and grassy and include *Stypantra glauca*, *Dianella caerulea*, *Dichondra repens*, *Themeda australis*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Adiantum aethiopicum*, *Tylophora barbata*, *Oreomyrrhis eriopoda*, *Cymbopogon refractus*, *Senecio linearifolius*, *Polyscias sambucifolia*, *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus* and *Lomandra longifolia*. This vegetation is very rich in groundcover and includes many species that would have occurred on the nearby basalt and shale soils that have been cleared and replaced with introduced pastures. Mount Gibraltar Reserve is therefore a very important conservation area for many of these formerly widespread species.

**ii) Low woodland: *Eucalyptus blaxlandii* –  
*Allocasuarina verticillata***

Mount Jellore Woodland, 11km north-west of Mittagong, is an isolated conically-shaped peak, 833 m high, surrounded by steep cliffs with scree slopes below, and rising above the surrounding Triassic Hawkesbury sandstone plateau. Geologically it is trachyte, a rare rock type in the Sydney district but which makes up such other well-known NSW Mountains as the Warrumbungle Ranges near Coonabarabran and Mt Canobolas near Orange.

The vegetation is diverse, ranging from woodland to scrub, depending on aspect. Vegetation of the summit area is mostly a low woodland of *Eucalyptus blaxlandii* and *Allocasuarina verticillata* with occasional *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (here 'mountain form'—a distinctive race, L.A.S. Johnson pers. comm.). Understorey species and structure change depending on aspect: the more exposed eastern and western sides are predominantly grassy with occasional shrubs; on the more sheltered southern side, grasses give way to graminoids such as *Lomandra longifolia*, *Lomandra multiflora* and *Dianella revoluta* (Benson 1979). The north face of the summit area is covered in a scrub of *Acacia binervia* with clumps of *Lepidosperma laterale*.

After an early botanical visit to Mt Jellore, Shiress (1916) wrote 'the summit, which is hardly an acre in extent was covered with *Casuarina stricta* [now *Allocasuarina verticillata*], a few stunted trees of *Casuarina suberosa* [*Allocasuarina littoralis*], and that charming bush *Westringia eremicola* [*Westringia longifolia*], had a few lingering flowers, and wonder of wonders, *Acacia*

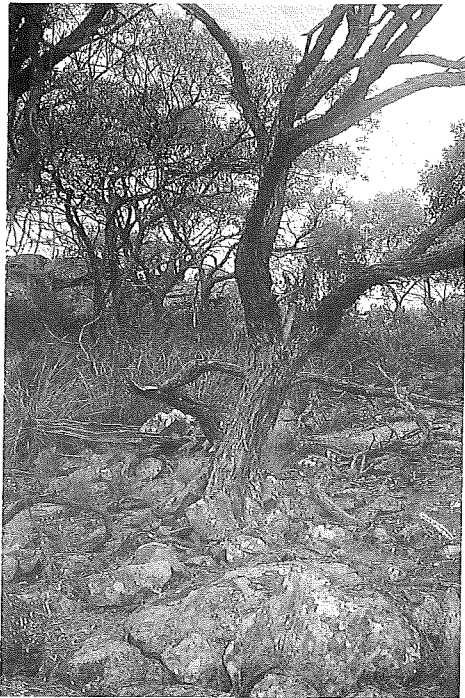


Figure 10. *Acacia binervia* on the summit of Mount Jellore (map unit 9y).

*glaucescens* [*Acacia binervia*], which appeared to clothe the whole of the northern side of the mount right on to the summit'.

The lower slopes of Mt Jellore are covered in woodland to open-forest with *Eucalyptus blaxlandii*, *Eucalyptus eugenioides* and *Eucalyptus agglomerata*. There are occasional occurrences of *Eucalyptus elata* and *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*.

### Sydney Sandstone Complex (map units 10ag and 10ar)

This vegetation complex is widespread on the lower elevation (<700 m) Hawkesbury and Narrabeen Group sandstones throughout the Sydney Basin. Community structure and floristics vary considerably, with topographical position, local soil conditions, drainage, aspect and fire history being important influences. Two subunits are recognised, separated principally on topographical position. A moist forest type is associated with the gullies, creek lines and sheltered slopes (map unit 10ag) and a dry woodland is associated with ridges and exposed slopes (map unit 10ar). There is overlap between these subunits, and also between them and the higher-altitude sandstone vegetation units (map units 10z and 9i).

#### Map unit 10ag Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest

**Open-forest: *Eucalyptus piperita* – *Eucalyptus agglomerata* – *Angophora costata***

Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest occurs on Hawkesbury sandstone on sheltered slopes and gullies and along creeks draining into the Nattai and Little Rivers. Moist, well-drained, shallow sandy-loams support open-forest of *Eucalyptus piperita*, *Eucalyptus agglomerata*, *Angophora costata* and *Syncarpia glomulifera* and occasionally *Eucalyptus gummifera*. *Eucalyptus agglomerata* occurs with *Syncarpia glomulifera* in the most sheltered situations. The understorey includes small trees of *Allocasuarina torulosa* and *Acacia elata* and shrubs of *Hakea dactyloides*, *Pultenaea flexilis*, *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Grevillea buxifolia* and *Dodonaea triquetra*. Similar vegetation is extensive further east in the catchments of Avon and Nepean Dam (Benson & Howell 1994a)

**Map unit 10ar****Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland**

**Woodland/open-forest: *Eucalyptus sieberi* – *Eucalyptus sclerophylla* – *Eucalyptus piperita* – *Eucalyptus gummifera***

Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland is widespread on Hawkesbury Sandstone ridges and exposed, north to north-eastern and north-western slopes, on the Nattai and Wanganderry Tablelands. Soils are generally shallow, sandy and well-drained, supporting woodlands and low woodlands. *Eucalyptus gummifera*, *Eucalyptus sieberi*, *Eucalyptus piperita* and *Eucalyptus sparsifolia* are common canopy species along ridges. *Eucalyptus sclerophylla* commonly occurs on exposed rocky knolls which are on higher ground than the surrounding ridge-top vegetation. In the slightly more sheltered areas, *Eucalyptus piperita* may occur with *Angophora costata* and *Eucalyptus punctata*.

The understorey is rich in shrubs from the families Proteaceae, Myrtaceae and Fabaceae. Common species include *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *Xanthorrhoea* spp., *Persoonia linearis*, *Hakea dactyloides*, *Banksia serrata*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Lambertia formosa*, *Grevillea mucronulata*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Comesperma ericinum*, *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Entolasia stricta* and *Kunzea ambigua*.

The southern geographical limit of *Angophora costata* occurs on the ridges and adjacent slopes south of Wanganderry Lookout, on the Wanganderry Plateau; on the edge of the sandstone plateau. The understorey is characterised by species such as *Stypandra glauca*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Persoonia linearis* and *Lomandra longifolia*.

**Map unit 10bh****Bindook Highlands Woodland**

This community occurs on the southern part of the Bindook Highlands, southwest of Yerranderie, on soils derived from sandstones and siltstones of the Shoalhaven Group Megalong Conglomerate.

Elevation is 800–900 m and annual rainfall 800–900 mm.

**i) Woodland: *Eucalyptus sieberi* – *Eucalyptus sparsifolia*.**

Woodlands of *Eucalyptus sieberi* are common throughout the Bindook Highlands, especially in exposed areas with shallower soils. *Eucalyptus sparsifolia* occurs with *Eucalyptus sieberi* on ridges and exposed slopes particularly on shallow and infertile soils. *Eucalyptus punctata* is found in a range of habitats, being especially common on undulating country and is frequent throughout the area.

**ii) Woodland: *Eucalyptus sieberi* – *Eucalyptus eugenioides*.**

Woodland with *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Eucalyptus eugenioides* occurs on ridges and exposed slopes, where soils are deeper.

**iii) Woodland/open-forest: *Eucalyptus radiata* – *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* – *Eucalyptus fastigata*.**

Woodlands of *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* are frequent on cold, sheltered slopes with deeper soils, as on the Jooriland Range and Pimlico Ridge. In moister areas and creek lines, *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* and *Eucalyptus fastigata* occur with *Eucalyptus radiata*.

Common understorey species in these woodland communities include *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Acacia longifolia*, *Acacia parramattensis*, *Acacia floribunda*, *Calochleana dubia*, *Persoonia linearis*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Oxylobium ilicifolium* and *Leptospermum polygalifolium*. Ground cover includes *Echinopogon ovatus*, *Dianella revoluta* and *Lomandra longifolia*.

On the Myall Causeway, along the Bindook–Murruin Stockroute, is a patch of heath on shallow, skeletal soils with species similar to those on Hawkesbury Sandstone, including *Banksia serrata*, *Banksia spinulosa*, *Persoonia linearis*, *Acacia longifolia*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Acacia obtusifolia* and *Pomaderris andromedifolia*.

**Map unit 10dw**  
**Douglas Scarp Woodland**

**Woodland: *Eucalyptus crebra* – *Callitris endlicheri* – *Acacia binervia***

Of very limited distribution, this woodland is restricted to the outcropping basal sediments of the Shoalhaven Group along the Douglas Scarp, near the Wollondilly River where it joins Lake Burragarang. Elevation and rainfall here are both relatively low, elevation is 220 m asl and rainfall is 800 mm p.a. (Bureau of Meteorology 1979) as a result of the rainshadow along the Wollondilly River.

Douglas Scarp Woodland is characterised by the presence of *Eucalyptus crebra*, *Callitris endlicheri* and *Acacia binervia*, the understorey has occasional dense patches of shrubs, but is generally grassy. *Callitris endlicheri* occurs here as an isolated population — it occurs more commonly on the tablelands and western slopes — and may have survived here under conditions of infrequent fire. The occurrence of *Acacia binervia* may also be indicative of infrequent fire. Understorey shrubs include *Leucopogon muticus*, *Olearia viscidula*, *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Astroloma humifusum* and

*Grevillea ramosissima*. Ground layer species include *Dichelachne micrantha*, *Lomandra filiformis*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Pomax umbellata* and *Goodenia hederacea*.

**Map unit 10I**  
**Snow Gum Woodland**

**Woodland: *Eucalyptus pauciflora* – *Eucalyptus dalrympleana***

Snow Gum Woodland is widespread on the Boyd and Loombah Plateau and on undulating country above 1000 m (Keith & Benson 1988; Steenbeeke 1990). It is commonly found on shallow to moderately deep loams and sandy loams, derived from either granite or quartzite of both Devonian Lambie Group and the Kowmung volcanoclastics.

The dominant canopy species are *Eucalyptus pauciflora* and *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* subsp. *dalrympleana*. In frost hollows, where air drainage is poor, woodlands of *Eucalyptus pauciflora* and *Eucalyptus stellulata* occur. On sites which are colder and drier than average, *Eucalyptus rubida* subsp. *rubida* occurs occasionally (Black 1982). In the understorey, common shrub species include



**Figure 11.** Douglas Scarp Woodland (map unit 10dw) with *Acacia binervia* prominent.



*Acacia dealbata*, *Acacia obliquinervia*, *Lomatia myricoides*, *Platysace lanceolata* and *Amperea xiphoclada*. Herbs and grasses form a continuous layer including such species as *Stellaria pungens*, *Poa sieberiana*, *Poa labillardieri*, *Poranthera microphylla*, *Geranium* spp. and *Plantago* spp. *Lomandra longifolia*, *Lomandra glauca* and *Peridium esculentum* occur occasionally.

Where Kanangra granite is exposed, skeletal soils support low open-heath (Steenbeeke 1990). It is dominated by *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, *Callistemon sieberi*, *Baeckea brevifolia* and *Isotoma petraea*.

### Map unit 10mr

#### Montane Ridge Woodland

**Woodland:** *Eucalyptus sieberi* – *Eucalyptus radiata* – *Eucalyptus dives* – *Eucalyptus mannifera*

Montane Ridge Woodland occurs on high-elevation (850–1200 m) ridgetops and exposed slopes along the western margin of the map area from the Loombah Plateau in the north to Barrallier in the south. Occurring on sandy, shallow soils of Ordovician and Silurian sediments, the woodland is dominated by *Eucalyptus sieberi*, *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata*, *Eucalyptus dives* and *Eucalyptus mannifera*. The understorey is very sparse, containing *Banksia spinulosa*, *Persoonia linearis*, *Acacia terminalis*, *Hakea dactyloides*, *Acacia obtusifolia*, *Leptospermum obovatum* and *Hibbertia obtusifolia*.

Montane Ridge Woodland grades into Montane Moist Forest (map unit 9n) downslope in the gullies.

### Map unit 10p

#### Kowmung Wilderness Complex

Kowmung Wilderness Complex occupies a large, mostly inaccessible, area of deeply dissected country of steep, narrow gorges and gullies in the shadows of narrow ridges and mountains. This is the Kowmung Valley and it is characterised by the rugged terrain carved into quartzites, sandstones, siltstones and claystones of the Devonian Lambie and Silurian Groups. Elevation ranges from 300 m to 1000 m. The well-drained clay loams derived from these rocks support a complex vegetation

community. The Kowmung Wilderness Complex has been described by Keith and Benson (1988) and Steenbeeke (1990).

There are several associations occurring in the Kowmung Wilderness Complex, groups of species changing with topographical position and aspect.

#### i) Woodland: *Eucalyptus punctata* – *Eucalyptus agglomerata*

On the ridges, drier aspects and well-drained soils, *Eucalyptus punctata* and *Eucalyptus agglomerata* are very common together with *Eucalyptus crebra* on more clayey soils and *Eucalyptus fibrosa* on lower nutrient soils.

#### ii) Tall open-forest: *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* – *Eucalyptus viminalis* – *Angophora floribunda*

In gullies, along watercourses and on sheltered valley slopes, tall open-forest of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*, often with *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *Angophora floribunda*, is common. *Eucalyptus deanei* is scattered throughout the eastern parts of the valley replacing *Eucalyptus tereticornis*. The shrub layer is variable, ranging from sparse to dense depending on the amount of moisture and light. Common species throughout include *Bursaria longisepala*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Acacia clunies-rossiae*, *Acacia amoena*, *Acacia falciformis* and *Persoonia linearis*, various Epacridaceae such as *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Leucopogon esquamatus* and *Leucopogon juniperinus* and various peas such as *Oxylobium ilicifolium*, *Dillwynia retorta*, *Kennedia rubicunda* and *Desmodium varians*.

### Map unit 10pw

#### Porphyry Box Woodland

**Woodland:** *Eucalyptus tereticornis* – *Eucalyptus melliodora* – *Eucalyptus moluccana* – *Eucalyptus albens*.

Porphyry Box Woodland occurs on loamy red texture-contrast soils derived from soft, easily-weathered parent material of the Bindook Porphyry complex. Bindook Porphyry is common west of the Wollondilly River in the west and south-west of the map sheet area, from Yerranderie to Bullio, Goodmans Ford, Hanworth and Bannaby. Annual rainfall is 800–900 mm.

The predominant tree species are *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Eucalyptus melliodora*, *Eucalyptus moluccana*, *Eucalyptus albens* and *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, occurring in various combinations. *Brachycton populneus* subsp. *populneus* and *Angophora floribunda* occur on sheltered slopes and gullies. *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Eucalyptus melliodora* predominate on the eastern side of the Wollondilly Valley while *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Eucalyptus moluccana* predominate on the western side of the valley, where *Eucalyptus melliodora* occurs occasionally (*Eucalyptus albens* occurs on more base-rich soils than *Eucalyptus moluccana*). In the south-west of the map area, near Bannaby, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* and *Eucalyptus moluccana* occur together. In the Joorilands area, *Eucalyptus albens* occurs with *Eucalyptus melliodora*.

The understorey is sparse, with scattered shrubs of *Olearia viscidula*, *Acacia floribunda*, *Acacia decurrens* and *Bursaria spinosa*. Herbs and grasses in the ground layer include *Themeda australis*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Aristida vagans*, *Cymbopogon refractus* and *Cheilanthes sieberi*.

Much of the Porphyry Box Woodland has been cleared and the condition of remnants depends on grazing pressures. The hardsetting red loams derived are favoured for farming, in preference to the adjoining sandy soils further east of the Wollondilly and on air photos and maps, the boundaries of cleared country generally coincide with the Porphyry geology. In contrast the vegetation of the adjacent sandy soils (on Permian Shoalhaven geology), the Burratorang Ironbark Woodland (map unit 10q), remains largely uncleared.

### Map unit 10q

#### Burratorang Ironbark Woodland

Burratorang Ironbark Woodland occurs around the foreshores of Lake Burratorang on the low-elevation (150–300 m), undulating country between main water courses and the Triassic sandstone escarpment; and, higher (300–570 m) and further west, in the catchments of the Tonalli River and Butchers Creek. It is a tall woodland occurring on shales, sandstones and conglomerate of the Shoalhaven Group. Presence and dominance of certain species are influenced by changes in ecological factors such as soil depth, topography, drainage and aspect.

#### i) Woodland: *Eucalyptus crebra* – *Eucalyptus punctata* – *Eucalyptus eugenioides*

On the low-elevation, undulating country around the Lake area, *Eucalyptus crebra*, *Eucalyptus punctata* and *Eucalyptus eugenioides* are common on gentle to moderate slopes. *Eucalyptus agglomerata* and *Eucalyptus fibrosa* are common in sheltered sites. On slopes with an essentially north-eastern aspect, *Eucalyptus tereticornis* occurs in wetter situations, such as gullies, creeklines and poorly-drained flats, *Melaleuca linariifolia* being common in the understorey. *Eucalyptus albens* and *Eucalyptus melliodora* are common on the foreshores and undulating country west of the Lake; and on hills of Upper Burratorang, south of Tonalli Peak on the Shoalhaven Formation.

In the higher-elevation catchments of the Tonalli River and Butchers Creek, where temperatures are generally cooler, *Eucalyptus quadrangulata* becomes a common subdominant occurring on slopes and *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* becomes common in the sheltered gullies.

#### ii) Woodland: *Eucalyptus sclerophylla* – *Angophora bakeri*

*Eucalyptus sclerophylla* and *Angophora bakeri* occur on exposed sites with shallow soils, such as near where the Nattai River joins Lake Burratorang. Understorey is characterised by low shrubs with a patchy ground layer. Common shrubs include *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *Dillwynia retorta*, *Jacksonia scoparia* and *Leucopogon muticus*. Characteristic herbs and grasses include *Stipa pubescens*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Lomandra obliqua* and *Goodenia hederacea*. Small patches of open-scrub dominated by *Kunzea ambigua* occur on poorly-drained sites that have been previously cleared.

#### iii) Low closed-forest: *Backhousia myrtifolia*

Grey Myrtle Low Forest dominated by *Backhousia myrtifolia* occurs in sheltered aspects in the upper Burratorang valley. It is also found along the Coxs River arm of Lake Burratorang and in Kanangra-Boyd National Park. Soils have a relatively high organic content and may be derived from Shoalhaven Group sediments or Bindook Porphyry parent materials. *Ficus rubiginosa* may be present as a canopy species in rocky areas and emergent eucalypts occur where this map unit merges into adjacent woodland communities.



**Figure 12.** Porphyry Woodland (map unit 10pw), *Eucalyptus moluccana* with an understorey of grasses and patches of shrubs.



**Figure 13.** Cleared Porphyry Woodland (map unit 10pw) at Jooriland near the southern end of Lake Burragorang. Continued grazing by stock has hindered eucalypt regeneration.

Other tall shrubs or small trees may include *Hedycaria angustifolia*, *Notelaea longifolia* and *Clerodendrum tomentosum*. The understorey is generally dominated by ferns with occasional grassy patches and several vines. Common ferns include *Pellaea falcata*, *Doodia aspera*, *Asplenium flabellifolium* and *Adiantum aethiopicum*. The grasses include *Oplismenus aemulus* and *Digitaria parviflora*. Vines include *Pandorea pandorana*, *Stephania japonica* var. *discolor*, *Tylophora barbata*, *Passiflora herbertiana* and *Cayratia clematidea*.

Burraborang Ironbark Woodland is similar to the Kowmung Wilderness Complex (map unit 10p) which lies to the north-west; and although occurring on different geological types (Shoalhaven and Devonian sediments respectively), these two units are very similar. They differ, however, in the following ways:

1. the species that occupy the more sheltered parts of the two valleys, the Burraborang and the Kowmung, are different. In the sheltered slopes and gullies of the Burraborang Valley, *Eucalyptus deanei*, *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Eucalyptus agglomerata* occur. In ecologically similar parts of the Kowmung Valley, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* subsp. *dalrympleana* and *Eucalyptus fastigata* occur.
2. within each valley the areal extent of these sheltered components differs. The deeply incised and rugged Devonian sediments of the Kowmung Valley provide many more sheltered slopes and gullies than do the Shoalhaven sediments of the Burraborang Valley. The result is that there is much more of the sheltered, moist community in the Kowmung than there is in the Burraborang Valley. The Kowmung Valley tends to be wetter, even supporting closed-forest in its deepest gullies; while the Burraborang Valley tends to be drier, supporting lower, more open woodlands.

### Map unit 10r

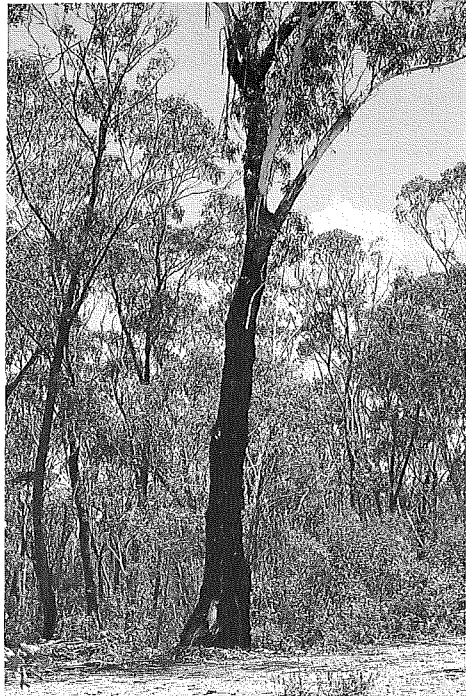
#### Residual Sandstone Woodland

**Woodland:** *Eucalyptus sieberi* – *Eucalyptus blaxlandii*

This high-elevation (800–1000 m) woodland is found in the north-western part of Bindook

Highlands on well-drained, low-nutrient, shallow, sandy soils derived from residual sandstones of the Shoalhaven Group. *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Eucalyptus blaxlandii* are the characteristic tree species. Woodlands of pure *Eucalyptus sieberi* occur where soils are lowest in fertility. *Eucalyptus blaxlandii* occurs with *Eucalyptus sieberi* where soils are a little more fertile. *Eucalyptus piperita* and *Eucalyptus melliodora* also occur, with *Eucalyptus punctata* at lower elevations. The understorey is of variable density, with *Oxylobium ilicifolium*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *Persoonia linearis*, *Persoonia laurina* subsp. *leiogyne*, *Acacia terminalis*, *Acacia obtusifolia*, *Montoca scoparia* and *Platysace lanceolata*.

There is an isolated occurrence of *Eucalyptus muelleriana* on poor, shallow soils on the Bindook Highlands, at an elevation of 800–850 m. This is much higher than its normal range (0–450 m) on the Illawarra Escarpment (Benson & Howell 1994a) and is the most north-western occurrence of the species.



**Figure 14.** Residual sandstone woodland with *Eucalyptus sieberi* (map unit 10r).

**Map unit 10s****Montane Woodland****Woodland: *Eucalyptus radiata* – *Eucalyptus dalrympleana***

Montane Woodland is restricted to the high-altitude (>900 m) flat undulating country around the Kanangra Tops – Boyd Plateau area (Steenbeeke 1990, Keith & Benson 1988). It occurs on well-drained to damp sandy loams on Carboniferous granite and Devonian Lambie Group metasediments. It grades into Montane Moist Forest (map unit 9n) in sheltered sites and into Residual Sandstone Woodland (map unit 10r) in exposed rocky ridges and plateau edges on both geological formations.

*Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata*, *Eucalyptus dives* and *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* subsp. *dalrympleana* are the main canopy tree species, with the occasional occurrence of *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, particularly at higher altitudes.

The understorey is sparse, with species such as *Acacia obliquinervia*, *Acacia dealbata*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus* var. *lanceolatus*, *Lomatia myricoides* and *Persoonia oxycoccoides*. Common grass species include *Poa sieberiana*, *Poa labillardieri* and *Dichelachne rara*, together with *Gonocarpus teucrioides*, *Gonocarpus tetragynus*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Lomandra glauca*, *Wahlenbergia communis* and *Hydrocotyle laxiflora*.

*Eucalyptus ovata* occurs in poorly-drained depressions, occasionally with *Eucalyptus stellulata*, and with understorey species such as *Leptospermum obovatum*, *Gahnia sieberiana*, *Juncus laeviusculus* subsp. *illawarrensis*, *Restio fimbriatus* and *Blechnum minus*.

**Map unit 10w****Joadja Stringybark Woodland****Woodland: *Eucalyptus agglomerata* – *Eucalyptus eugenioides***

Joadja Stringybark Woodland is common on steep rocky slopes along the valley of the Wingecarribee River from Medway to Joadja and to the confluence with the Wollondilly. Elevation ranges from 600–700 m, annual rainfall is about 900 mm and soils are sandy loams to clays on Permian Shoalhaven Group sediments. The stringybarks, *Eucalyptus agglomerata* and

*Eucalyptus eugenioides* are the main canopy species with some *Eucalyptus punctata*. The understorey is shrubby and may include *Acacia decurrens*, *Olearia viscidula*, *Daviesia mimosoides*, *Oxylobium ilicifolium*, *Monotoca scoparia*, *Persoonia linearis*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Lomandra confertifolia*, *Goodenia bellidifolia*, *Cassinia cunninghamii*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Poa labillardieri*, *Microlaena stipoides* and *Echinopogon ovatus*. Sheltered gullies with deeper soils may have open-forest with *Eucalyptus elata* with *Melaleuca linariifolia*, *Gahnia* and *Gleichenia* along creek lines.

**Map unit 10x****Southern Highlands Shale Woodlands**

In the southeastern corner of the map sheet is the Wianamatta Shale country that is characteristic of the Southern Highlands. This extends from west of Mittagong and Bowral, eastwards to the Illawarra Escarpment and south to Bundanoon. The shale forms relatively fertile clay soils originally supporting a range forest and woodland vegetation, most of which has now been cleared for agriculture. In the map sheet area the shale country occupies a gently undulating plateau from 600–700 m elevation with a rainfall of about 900 mm per annum. Two communities are described here but remnants are very variable.

**i) Open-forest: *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* – *Eucalyptus quadrangulata* – *Eucalyptus globoidea***

This community occurs in the Aylmerton area on soils derived from Wianamatta Shale along the southern edge of the Hawkesbury Sandstone of the Woronora Plateau. It occurs from Mittagong eastward to the Illawarra Escarpment near Macquarie Pass (Benson & Howell 1994b). Dominant canopy species include *Eucalyptus quadrangulata*, *Eucalyptus globoidea* and *Eucalyptus punctata*. *Eucalyptus amplifolia* subsp. *amplifolia* and *Eucalyptus ovata* occur in sites with poor drainage. *Eucalyptus macarthurii* occurs occasionally but is more common south of the map sheet area. Common understorey species include *Oxylobium ilicifolium*, *Melaleuca thymifolia*, *Olearia microphylla*, *Cassinia uncata*, *Acacia mearnsii* and *Amperea xiphoclada*. Most of this community has been cleared.

**ii) Woodland: *Eucalyptus ovata* –  
*Eucalyptus amplifolia* subsp. *amplifolia***

Broad, poorly-drained depressions on Wianamatta Shale soils may have remnants of woodland with *Eucalyptus ovata* and *Eucalyptus amplifolia* subsp. *amplifolia*, perhaps with *Eucalyptus macarthurii*.

**iii) Woodland: *Eucalyptus cinerea* –  
*Eucalyptus globoidea***

On Wianamatta Shale in the Mandemar area west of Mittagong remnants of woodland with *Eucalyptus cinerea*, *Eucalyptus globoidea*, *Eucalyptus punctata* and *Eucalyptus mannifera* occur on low hills. Remnant trees of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Eucalyptus viminalis* are found on shale soils on hillslopes. The understorey would have been of native grasses and herbs with scattered shrubs. Species still persisting include *Themeda australis*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Dantonina*, *Stipa*, *Aristida*, *Hardenbergia violacea* and *Bursaria spinosa*. This community is on drier country than that above, *Eucalyptus cinerea* for example is mostly found in drier country further west (such as map unit 10pw, Porphyry Woodland).

Most of this area has now been cleared of native vegetation and only small pockets of vegetation remain along roadsides, and in paddock corners where grazing has removed most of the groundcover species. Fibrous-barked trees such as the stringybarks, *Eucalyptus globoidea*, are frequently killed by ringbarking by stock seeking fibrous material.

**Map unit 10z**

**Mittagong Sandstone Woodland**

**i) Woodland: *Eucalyptus sieberi* –  
*Eucalyptus piperita* – *Eucalyptus sclerophylla***

Mittagong Sandstone Woodland occurs on sandy, shallow, well-drained soils derived from Hawkesbury Sandstone, between 700 and 800m elevation. It is widespread on the Southern Highlands occurring from Mittagong west to Mount Wanganderry and Joadja on the Burragarang 1:100 000 sheet, and south to Wingello and Bundanoon on the Moss Vale map sheet.

The characteristic vegetation of the sandstone plateaus are woodlands with trees of *Eucalyptus*

*sieberi*, *Eucalyptus piperita*, *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* and *Eucalyptus sclerophylla*. Other species, *Eucalyptus agglomerata* and *Eucalyptus globoidea* may be present, to varying degrees, depending on aspect, slope and soil depth. *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Eucalyptus globoidea* occur most commonly on ridges, *Eucalyptus piperita* and *Eucalyptus agglomerata* on slopes and more sheltered sites and *Eucalyptus sclerophylla* on poorly-drained sites or those with shallow soils. *Eucalyptus mannifera* and *Eucalyptus elata* occur along drainage lines. *Eucalyptus dives*, *Eucalyptus rubida* and *Eucalyptus mannifera* occur at colder sites.

Common understorey species include *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *Hakea dactyloides*, *Xylomelum pyriforme*, *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Persoonia lanceolata* and *Bossiaea obcordata*. *Hakea constablei*, previously thought to have been restricted to Mount Wilson and the Wollangambe River area occurs on the Wanganderry Tableland at Bonnum Pic.



**Figure 15.** Upper Gibbergunyah Creek with open-forest of *Eucalyptus radiata*, *Eucalyptus smithii* and *Eucalyptus viminalis* (map unit 10z).



**ii) Open-forest: *Eucalyptus smithii* –  
*Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* – *Eucalyptus elata***

This is confined to sheltered gullies in the uppermost reaches of Joadja Creek and Nattai River (and also in gullies near Mount Savage on the Boyd Range), on sheltered slopes below the sandstone escarpment. The deep soils are derived from Hawkesbury Sandstone. Canopy species include *Eucalyptus smithii*, *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*, *Eucalyptus elata* and *Eucalyptus globoidea*. Common understorey species include *Lomatia myricoides*, *Lasiopetalum ferrugineum*, *Acacia falcata* and *Pomaderris ferruginea*.

Mittagong Sandstone Woodland intergrades to the north with Sydney Sandstone Complex of the Nattai Tableland. Species common to both units include *Eucalyptus piperita*, *Eucalyptus sieberi*, *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *Hakea dactyloides*, *Persoonia lanceolata* and *Leptospermum trinervium*. It is also floristically similar to Blue Mountains Sandstone Plateau Forest in the Upper Blue Mountains. Very little work has been done on altitudinal gradients in the Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation.

**Map unit 15z  
Wingecarribee Mallee**

**Low open-woodland: *Eucalyptus apiculata***

Mallees of *Eucalyptus apiculata* up to 4 m high, and small trees of *Eucalyptus mannifera*, occur on shallow skeletal soils associated with exposed Hawkesbury Sandstone outcrops along ridges overlooking the Wingecarribee River west of Medway, west of Wanganderry and small areas southeast of Burrarorang Lookout. The 2 m high shrub layer includes *Hakea dactyloides*, *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Calytrix tetragona* and *Lomandra longifolia*. Part of this rocky sandstone country immediately west of Berrima, was a favoured collecting place for the nineteenth century botanist Louisa Atkinson. Here in the 1870s, she described 'the wild grandeur of the Wallaby Rocks' with its 'curious rocks fretted by atmospherical aid into castellated forms' and 'destitute of large trees, but matted by a dwarf casuarina of a russet suit, while numerous lovely flowering shrubs add variety and beauty' (Atkinson 1980).



**Figure 16.** Wallaby Rocks near Berrima in 1982 showing exposed sandstone rockplatform with low open woodland in background (Wingecarribee Mallee, map unit 15z).

In 1982 *Allocasuarina nana* still grew in bands with *Banksia spinulosa*, *Kunzea parvifolia* and *Calytrix tetragona* at Wallaby Rocks, before the construction of the Motorway bypassing Berrima.

*Eucalyptus apiculata* is a nationally rare species that occurs sporadically on the Woronora Plateau as far east as O'Hares Creek (Keith 1994). The populations here are at the western limit for the species.

### Map unit 17a

#### Teatree Scrub

**Open-scrub:** *Leptospermum polygalifolium*  
– *Eucalyptus mannifera*

Teatree Scrub occurs at Random Swamp, a soak on the Shoalhaven Group sandstones of Tomat Heights, on the Bindook Highlands, and at Sandy Flat. It consists of an open-scrub canopy of *Leptospermum polygalifolium* with emergent stunted trees of *Eucalyptus mannifera*. Other shrub species include *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Banksia spinulosa* and *Hakea dactyloides*. Groundcover species include *Epacris microphylla*, *Lepyrodia scariosa*, *Lomandra multiflora* and *Stellaria flaccida*.

Random Swamp Scrub is similar to Black Range Scrub on the Katoomba 1:100 000 vegetation sheet (Keith & Benson 1988), although the latter community has *Leptospermum myrtifolium* as its dominant scrub species.

### Map unit 17m

#### Range Mallee

**Open-scrub:** *Eucalyptus stricta* – *Eucalyptus pauciflora*

Restricted to the Loombah Plateau on the Great Dividing Range at 1160 m elevation, Range Mallee is characterised by dense, 3–5 m high, stands of the mallee, *Eucalyptus stricta* with occasional emergent trees of *Eucalyptus pauciflora*. Predominant shrub species include *Banksia marginata*, *Leptospermum obovatum*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, *Leptospermum juniperinum* and *Hakea dactyloides*. Other less common shrubs include *Hibbertia serpyllifolia* and *Leucopogon microphyllus*. The nationally rare plant *Kunzea cabbagei* occurs here.

Range Mallee differs from the Montane Heath and Open-heath that include *Eucalyptus stricta* further north (map units 21c and 21f in Keith & Benson 1988). Range Mallee has a taller structure (open-scrub compared with open-heath), lacks *Allocasuarina nana* in the shrub layer, and occurs on Silurian sediments, rather than Permian and Triassic sandstones.

### Map unit 21c

#### Montane Heath

**i) Open-heath:** *Eucalyptus stricta* –  
*Allocasuarina nana* – *Hakea dactyloides* –  
*Leptospermum trinervium*

Montane Heath occurs on Kanangra Tops in the far north-western section of the map, where it is restricted to high-altitude (>1000 m) Permian and Triassic sediments. It extends onto the Katoomba sheet (Keith & Benson 1988). Blue Mountains Mallee, *Eucalyptus stricta*, forms an emergent layer with taller shrubs, *Hakea dactyloides* and *Leptospermum trinervium*, above a denser low shrub layer with *Allocasuarina nana*, *Epacris microphylla*, *Isopogon anemonifolius*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Micromyrtus ciliata* and *Baeckea brevifolia*. Groundcover species include *Stylidium lineare*, *Carex appressa*, *Lepidosperma laterale*, *Gonocarpus teucroides*, *Lindsaea linearis*, *Ptilothrix deusta*, *Drosera peltata* and *Drosera spatulata*.

**ii) Open-heath:** *Dracophyllum secundum* –  
*Epacris calvertiana* – *Gleichenia rupestris*

Patches of open-heath occur on moist cliff faces of the Permian and Triassic sandstone, containing *Dracophyllum secundum*, *Epacris calvertiana* and *Gleichenia rupestris*.

### Map unit 26b

#### Boyd Plateau Bogs

**Closed-sedgeland/closed-heath/open-heath:**  
*Carex appressa* – *Carex gaudichaudiana* –  
*Restio australis*

This diverse vegetation unit, previously described by Keith and Benson (1988) and Steenbeeke (1990), occurs in headwater valleys on the Boyd Plateau at altitudes above 1100 m. Various forms



grow in shallow sinks and depressions on soils derived from granite and quartzite parent material and contain large amounts of *in situ* organic material. Vegetation patterns in the Boyd swamps appears to relate to waterlogging regimes, but are probably also related to fire and grazing (Keith & Benson 1988).

Closed sedgeland include *Carex appressa*, *Carex gaudichaudiana*, *Juncus holoschoenus*, *Restio australis*, *Patersonia fragilis* and *Geranium*

*neglectum*, with occasional shrubs of *Epacris paludosa*, *Hakea microcarpa* and *Baekkea utilis*. Occasional thickets of *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, *Leptospermum obovatum* and *Callistemon sieberi* were noted by Keith and Benson (1988).

The presence of species, such as *Celmisia* sp. aff. *longifolia*, *Wahlenbergia ceracea* and *Sphagnum* sp., indicates that the Boyd swamps have a floristic affinity with the alpine and subalpine bogs of the Southern Tablelands.

## Discussion

The Burratorang 1:100 000 vegetation map sheet depicts a diverse array of vegetation communities that relate to the complex geological history and landform processes of the area. The Burratorang sheet area extends from the low coastal tableland regions inland to the higher elevations of the Southern Blue Mountains and south to the Southern Highlands. Habitats range from deep gorges and escarpments through to undulating dry hills and high elevated plateaus, to the rugged terrain typical of the Hawkesbury Sandstone. Over this area, different altitude and rainfall classes contribute significantly to the floristic composition, located on the boundaries between the botanical subdivisions of the Central Coast and Central Tablelands.

In his survey of the Burratorang Valley, Cambage (1911) noted the influence that geology and altitude have on vegetation pattern:

'In the eastern [lower] portion [of the Burratorang area] coastal forms [of vegetation] are noticed, but many of these are gradually left behind as the ascent is made [heading west up the mountains] and cooler regions are reached, their places being taken by types better adapted to withstand the more rigid climatic conditions, and whose homes are on the highest parts of eastern Australia. ... As the vegetation is so often regulated by geological formations, [he describes] the various formations ... in order that the changes in the flora be better understood.'

Variation in plant communities and floristic composition is largely dependent upon geology, topography and rainfall. Groups of plant communities are associated with the igneous complexes — the Bindook porphyry Complex (map unit 10pw); and with the sedimentary forms — the Permian and Triassic sandstone geologies (map units 10ag, 10ar, 10p, 10z, 10q, 10w and 9w). Other communities found on specific geological types include Robertson Basalt Forest (map unit 6k), restricted to basalt outcrops around Robertson and Bowral; Moist Basalt Forest (map unit 6g) restricted to basalt caps at Mt Colong and Mt Shivering; River Oak Forest (map unit 9x), restricted to Quaternary alluvial flats; and the Tertiary igneous outcrops of Mount Gibraltar and Mount Jellore (map unit 9y).

Exceptions occur where other physical attributes, such as aspect, altitude and rainfall differences, over-ride the influence of geology. For example, groups of communities

on similar soils, geology and geomorphology may change progressively (in terms of structure and species composition) to form altitudinal series in response to variation in precipitation and temperature over the altitudinal range of the study area. The sandstone plateau communities (map units 10ar–10z–9i) exemplify the influence of a progressively cooler climate on a vegetation community which is similar in all of its other components. Similarly, Burrarorang Ironbark Woodland (map unit 10q), on the Shoalhaven Group sediments, ranges in altitude from 200 m to 500 m; and Joadja Stringybark Woodland (map unit 10w), also on the Shoalhaven Group sediments further south, occurs at higher altitudes (500–730 m a.s.l.) but is composed of different species. Burrarorang Ironbark Woodland (map unit 10q) and Kowmung Wilderness Complex (map unit 10p) are two complex communities which although occur on different geological formations and different landforms, have similar suites of species. It is probable that the influence of a cooler climate is the determining physical factor in this case.

In regional terms the vegetation of the sandstone plateaus is part of Beadle's (1981) *Eucalyptus* woodlands and forests of low fertility on the eastern coastal lowlands, in particular the *Eucalyptus gummifera* – *Eucalyptus racemosa* – *Eucalyptus sieberi* Alliance (*Eucalyptus sclerophylla* is equivalent to *Eucalyptus racemosa* in the Burrarorang area). The higher elevation communities of the Mittagong–Bowral and Boyd Plateau are part of the *Eucalyptus* communities of cooler climates of the Eastern Highlands including parts of the *Eucalyptus pauciflora* Alliance, *Eucalyptus radiata* Alliance and *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* – *Eucalyptus muelleriana* – *Eucalyptus maidenii* Alliance. The woodlands of the Wollondilly valley are part of the Box Woodlands of the east and southeast, in particular the *Eucalyptus melliodora* – *Eucalyptus blakelyi* Alliance and the *Eucalyptus albens* Alliance.

### Conservation

The Burrarorang map sheet covers an important part of the major natural area that extends from the Wollemi National Park in the north through the Blue Mountains, Burrarorang, Woronora Plateau and Shoalhaven area to Ettrema and the Budawangs in the south. Much of the natural vegetation on the Burrarorang map is protected in conservation reserves especially for the northern half where there are three National Parks, each of considerable size, Blue Mountains, Kanangra–Boyd and Nattai. Kanangra–Boyd National Park (39 748ha) and the surrounding area makes up the third largest wilderness area in N.S.W. (146 000 ha), 'one of the most scenic and geologically complex wilderness areas in the state' (James 1994). This wilderness has been referred to as the 'cradle of the Australian bushwalking movement' (Muir 1992 in James 1994). Nattai National Park and Burrarorang, Yerranderie and Nattai State Recreation Areas further south, were declared in December 1991. Nattai National Park and surrounding areas make up the Nattai Wilderness area (30 424 ha). It has spectacular gorge terrain, tall-open forests and rainforest elements and is an important part of the Warragamba Dam catchment.

Many of the 33 map units and plant communities recognised on the Burragorang map are well conserved. Of these, seven units account for most of the area covered by the three National Parks: 10q, 10bh, 10p, 10r in Blue Mountains National Park; 9n, 10p, 10r in Kanangra-Boyd National Park; and 10ag, 10ar in Nattai National Park. Moist Basalt Cap rainforest (map unit 6g) has only two small occurrences and both are within Blue Mountains National Park. There are other occurrences further north on the Katoomba map sheet. Kowmung Dry Rainforest (map unit 8d), occurring only in the Kowmung Valley, is protected within the boundaries of Kanangra-Boyd National Park. Kowmung Wilderness Complex (map unit 10p), confined to the Kowmung Valley, accounts for a large area of the Kanangra-Boyd National Park.

Blue Mountains Sandstone Forest (map unit 9i), Montane Moist Forest (map unit 9n), Sandstone Residual woodland (map unit 10r) and Montane woodland (map unit 10s) are all restricted to the higher altitudes of the north-western section of the map area and are all represented in both Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks. Map units 9n, 10r and 10s account for a large amount of area conserved in Kanangra-Boyd National Park. The low-elevation Sydney Sandstone Communities (map units 10ag and 10ar) are well-conserved in the Burragorang area within Nattai National Park. Mittagong Sandstone Woodland (map unit 10z) has suffered from large amounts of clearing but now has its northern-most parts protected within Nattai National Park. Escarpment Slope Forests (map units 6hm and 6hd), limited to the foot of Triassic Sandstone escarpments, are included within the Kanangra-Boyd and Nattai National Parks. River Oak Forest (map unit 9x) has been reserved in the Kanangra-Boyd and Blue Mountains National Parks and, more recently, along the Wollondilly River in Nattai National Park. Although accounting for a large portion of Blue Mountains National Park and recently included within the boundaries of Nattai National Park, the original extent of Burragorang Ironbark Woodland (map unit 10q) was reduced following the formation of Lake Burragorang.

Significant communities in the Burragorang area include Douglas Scarp Woodland (map unit 10dw). This differs from similar woodlands elsewhere owing to the combined presence of *Callitris endlicheri* and *Acacia binervia*. A significant proportion is within Nattai National Park, along with the outlying *Angophora costata* woodlands in the Wanganderry Lookout area.

Porphyry Box Woodland (map unit 10pw), once covering a large part of the western half of the map area, has been largely cleared owing to the suitability of its deep loamy soils for agriculture. Considerable areas of the northern part of map unit 10pw are conserved in Yerranderie State Recreation area and much of that is in various states of regeneration following cessation of grazing.

Land clearing and development of land for rural subdivisions remain as threats to native vegetation on private land in the map area. Native vegetation along the Lake Burragorang foreshores may be threatened by proposals to raise Warragamba Dam for flood mitigation or increasing water storage. Inundation for long periods would affect five communities, map units 9x, 10dw, 10pw, 10q, 12b and Burragorang valley populations of the rare plants *Hakea* sp B, *Cryptandra buxifolia*, *Rulingia pannosa*,



**Figure 17.** Eucalypt regeneration around isolated remnant trees following cessation of grazing. The ring of sapling growth indicates the relatively short distance that seed is shed from the parent tree (Porphyry Woodland, map unit 10pw).

*Gonocarpus longifolius* and *Grevillea longifolia*. Extensive cliff collapses associated with underground coalmining may also endanger species of particular habitats, such as at the base of clifflines.

In the southern half of the map area the reserve system is much more limited and protection of the isolated remnants is inadequate. Mittagong Sandstone Woodland (map unit 10z) is generally poorly conserved, with some limited areas within Nattai National Park. Joadja Stringybark Woodland (map unit 10w), limited to the upper reaches of the Wingecarribee Valley, has remained relatively undisturbed, its steep terrain making it unsuitable for agriculture, however no part of this community has reserve status. Some of the communities on igneous outcrops (map unit 9y) such as at Mount Flora have been cleared, but the particularly important remnant on Mount Gibraltar is in a council reserve. Mount Jellore is part of Nattai National Park.

Robertson Basalt Woodland (map unit 6k) and Southern Highlands Shale Woodland communities (map unit 10x) have been extensively cleared for agriculture because of the arable soils on the basalt and the Wianamatta Shale. These communities are not included within any reserves on the Burratorang map. Remnants persist as small, isolated fragments along roadsides or in paddocks where grazing has removed most of the groundcover species. Remnant fibrous-barked trees such as the stringybarks, *Eucalyptus globoidea*, are frequently killed by ringbarking by stock seeking fibrous material. Protection of remnant trees and native understorey in rural areas is an important conservation issue.

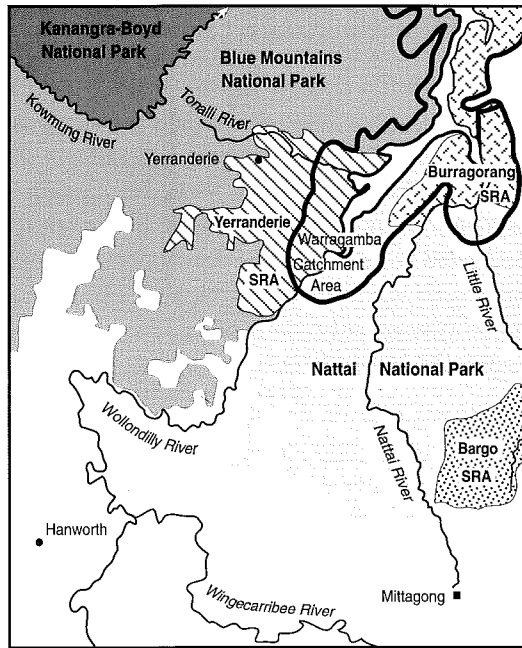


Figure 18. Major conservation reserves within the Burratorang 1:100 000 map sheet. The inner catchment of Warragamba Dam is shown as a thick line.

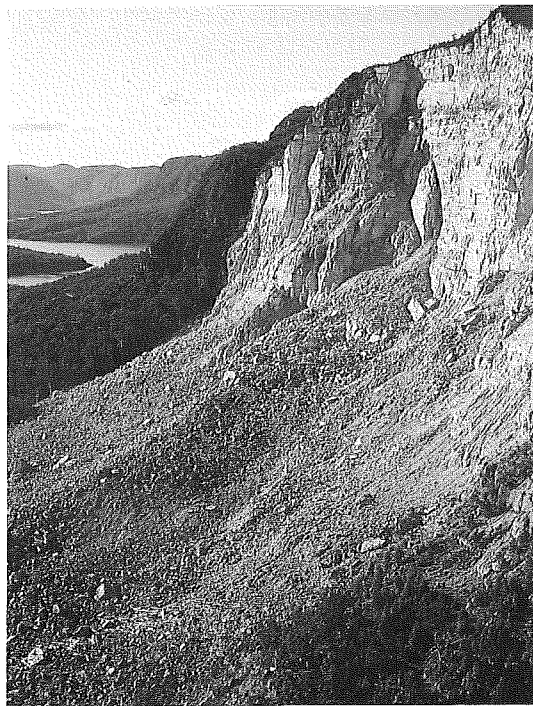


Figure 19. Cliff collapse near Lake Burratorang.

### Rare or threatened plant species

Thirty-one botanically significant species are listed for the Burraborang map sheet (Table 4). These species are either rare, threatened or significant in terms of their geographic distribution. The species vary in terms of rarity and conservation status throughout the study area. There are several locally restricted species. For example *Bossiaea oligosperma* is a poorly-known vulnerable locally endemic species, as is *Kunzea cambagei*, which is restricted to high-altitude sandstone outcrops, such as Loombah Plateau; *Acacia clunies-rossiae* is a locally endemic species found along the Kowmung River. Proposals to raise Warragamba Dam populations of the rare plants including the only-recently discovered *Hakea* sp B.

Large areas of the northern half of the study area are within the National Park system and many of the rare or threatened species recognised are within National Park boundaries. Other species are in the State Recreation Areas but a large part is not open to the public as it is Sydney Water Catchment Area. A number of species occurring in the southern half of the study area are at risk because of clearing and grazing. Very little land is preserved within National Park here and native habitat is most often reduced to scattered clumps or narrow ribbons in roadside reserves.



**Figure 20.** *Eucalyptus oreades* on rocky slopes above the Nattai River, near the southern limit of its geographical distribution.

**Table 4. Species of particular conservation significance within the Burrarorang 1:100 000 map sheet area.**

Species listed here are either rare or threatened or of regional botanical significance in terms of geographic distribution or localised populations disjunct from other occurrences. Localities refer to Burrarorang map sheet occurrences. Codes are from Briggs & Leigh (1988, with current revised ROTAP lists).

Family and species	Habitat and Locality	Significance and conservation status
<b>DICOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>ASTERACEAE</b>		
<i>Helichrysum calvertianum</i>	Restricted to small areas in eucalypt woodland near Mittagong, Berrima, Joadja and Fitzroy Falls; sandy soil, rainfall above 900mm pa	2KC-
<b>BORAGINACEAE</b>		
<i>Halgania brachyrhyncha</i>	The Sheepwalk, Burrarorang	Rare, only Sydney area record
<b>CONVOLVULACEAE</b>		
<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> var. <i>decumbens</i>	The Sheepwalk, Burrarorang	Rare, only Sydney area record
<b>EPACRIDACEAE</b>		
<i>Lissanthe sapida</i>	Open-woodland, Burrarorang	3RCa
<i>Rupicola sprengeioides</i>	Mountain cliffs, Burrarorang	3RC-t
<i>Styphelia angustifolia</i>	Lookout Hilltop (1923)	Rare, no recent records
<b>FABACEAE</b>		
<i>Acacia clunies-rossiae</i>	Yerranderie, Kowmung River	2RC-t
<i>Acacia flocktoniae</i>	Dry sclerophyll forests on sandstone, Yerranderie	2VC-
<i>Acacia jonesii</i>	Dry ridges, Yerranderie	2RCa
<i>Bossiaea oligosperma</i>	sandstone, Tonalli River, Yerranderie	2V
<i>Phyllota humifusa</i>	Jellore	2VCa
<b>HALORAGACEAE</b>		
<i>Gonocarpus longifolius</i>	Burrarorang Valley	3RC-
<b>LAMIACEAE</b>		
<i>Prostanthera rugosa</i>	Wingecarribee River	Local endemic
<b>MYOPORACEAE</b>		
<i>Myoporum floribundum</i>	Kowmung area	3RCi, local pop. rare
<b>MYRSINACEAE</b>		
<i>Ardisia bakeri</i>	Rainforest, Lannigans Creek	2RC-
<b>MYRTACEAE</b>		
<i>Darwinia fascicularis</i> subsp. <i>oligantha</i>	Bonnum Pic area	Local disjunct population, southern limit
<i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i>	Black Springs Creek, Mittagong, Yerranderie	Local pop.
<i>Eucalyptus apiculata</i>	Mittagong/Berrima, Burrarorang Lookout	2R



Family and species	Habitat and Locality	Significance and conservation status
<b>MYRTACEAE</b> (continued)		
<i>Eucalyptus hypostomatica</i>	Nattai River, Lacys Creek	3RC-
<i>Eucalyptus macarthurii</i>	Nattai River, Mittagong, Berrima, Bowral	2RCi
<i>Eucalyptus oreades</i>	Gibbergunyah Creek, Mittagong	local pop., southern limit
<i>Kunzea cambagei</i>	Loombah Plateau	2VCa
<b>PROTEACEAE</b>		
<i>Banksia conferta</i> var. <i>penicillata</i>	Hilltop	3RC-
<i>Grevillea longifolia</i>	Burraborang area	2RC-
<i>Hakea constablei</i>	Rocky outcrops, Bonnum Pic area	2RCa
<i>Hakea</i> sp. B	Kowmung River, Tonalli Cove	2VCi
<i>Persoonia acerosa</i>	Heath and dry sclerophyll forest on sandstone north of Hilltop	2VC-
<i>Persoonia glaucescens</i>	Hilltop, Mount Jellore, Boxvale Tramway, Berrima	2V
<b>RHAMNACEAE</b>		
<i>Cryptandra buxifolia</i>	Burraborang area	Disjunct population
<i>Pomaderris cotoneaster</i>	High altitudes, south of Mittagong	3ECi
<i>Pomaderris sericea</i>	Berrima	3VCi
<b>RUTACEAE</b>		
<i>Asterolasia astericophora</i>	Wingecarribee River, Belanglo State Forest	Local disjunct population
<b>STERCULIACEAE</b>		
<i>Rulingia dasyphylla</i>	Yerranderie, Burraborang	Disjunct population
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>ORCHIDACEAE</b>		
<i>Diuris aequalis</i>	Sclerophyll forest on ranges and tablelands	3VC-
<i>Pterostylis pulchella</i>	Rainforest, below falls	2VC-



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<b>Amaranthaceae</b>										
<i>Deeringia amaranthoides</i>	6hm	8d								
<i>Nyssanthus erecta</i>	6hm		9n			10p				
<b>Anthericaceae</b>										
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>		8d	9n			10p		10q		
<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i>								10q		
<b>Apiaceae</b>										
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	6hd	6hm						10q		10z
<i>Centella asiatica</i>								10q		
<i>Daucus gluchidiatus</i>										
<i>Hydrocotyle algida</i>	6hd									
<i>Hydrocotyle geraniifolia</i>	6hd	6hm	9n	9w	9x	10p	10pw	10q		
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	6hd	6hm	9n	9w	9x	10p	10pw	10q		
<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>	6hm		9n	9w	9x			10q		
<i>Oreomyrrhis eriopoda</i>				9y						
<i>Platysace ericoides</i>	6hd	6hm				10ag	10ar	10q		10z
<i>Platysace lanceolata</i>			9n	9y		10p		10r		15z
<i>Platysace linearifolia</i>	6hd	6hm				10p		10r		15z
<i>Xanthosia pilosa</i>	6hd	6hm	9i					10q		10z
<i>Xanthosia tridentata</i>			9i			10p		10q		10z
<b>Apocynaceae</b>										
<i>Parsonsia brownii</i>		6k								
<i>Parsonsia</i> sp. A		8d	9n							
<i>Parsonsia straminea</i>	6hd	6hm	6k	9n			10dw			
<b>Araliaceae</b>										
<i>Astrotricha latifolia</i>	6hd	6hm	9n					10q		
<i>Astrotricha ledifolia</i>										
<i>Astrotricha longifolia</i>	6hm									
<i>Polyscias elegans</i>	6hm									
<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i>	6g	6hd	6hm	6k	9n	9w	9y	10l	10p	10z
<b>Asclepiadaceae</b>										
<i>Marsdenia flavescens</i>	6hm	8d	9n	9x						
<i>Marsdenia rostrata</i>		6k						10pw		10z
<i>Marsdenia suaveolens</i>	6hd							10q		10z
<i>Tylophora barbata</i>	6hd	6hm	6k	8d	9n	9y		10p	10pw	10z
<b>Asteraceae</b>										
<i>Airfnechthites mixta</i>										
<i>Brachycome angustifolia</i>	6hm							10pw	10q	10x
<i>Brachycome graminea</i>								10pw	10q	



<i>Olearia myrsinoides</i>															10z	
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>	6hd															
<i>Olearia tomentosa</i>	6hd															
<i>Olearia viscidula</i>	6hd	6hm		9n	9t	9w	9x	9y								
<i>Olearia viscosa</i>															10x	10z
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	6hd	6hm		9n	9w											15z
<i>Pteris hieracioides</i>																
<i>Podolepis hieracioides</i>				9n	9w											10s
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>																10s
<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>																
<i>Senecio apargiaefolius</i>				9n	9x										10p	10r
<i>Senecio biserratus</i>																
<i>Senecio diaschides</i>																
<i>Senecio gunnii</i>																
<i>Senecio lautus</i>																
<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>	6hd	6hm	6k	9n	9w	9x	9y								10z	
<i>Senecio macranthus</i>				9n												
<i>Senecio minimus</i>				9n												10z
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>																
<i>Senecio vagus</i>				9n												
<i>Solenogyne belloides</i>				9n			9x									
<i>Solenogyne gunnii</i>																
<i>Vernonia cinerea</i>				9n			9x	9y								
<i>Vitadina cuneata sens. lat.</i>		6hm														
<b>Bigoniaceae</b>																
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	6hd	6hm	6k	8d	9n											
<b>Boraginaceae</b>																
<i>Austrocynoglossum latifolium</i>																
<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>																
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>																
<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>																
<i>Halimolobos brachyrrhyncha</i>		6hm	8d	9n												
<b>Brassicaceae</b>																
<i>Capella bursa-pastoris</i>																
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>																
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>							9x									
<b>Callitrichaceae</b>																
<i>Callitriche muelleri</i>																

















<i>Cassipha pubescens</i>	6hm	9n	10ar	10p	10z	15z	21c
<i>Cryptocarya glaucescens</i>	6hm						
<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	6hm						
<b>Lobeliaceae</b>							
<i>Lobelia gracilis</i>							
<i>Pratia purpurascens</i>	6g 6hd 6hm	9n	9w 9x 9y	10ar	10p	10q	10r
<b>Loganiaceae</b>							
<i>Logania albiliflora</i>		9n	9y	10ar	10p	10q	
<i>Mitrasacme polymorpha</i>		9n	10ag		10pw		
<b>Loranthaceae</b>							
<i>Amyema congener</i>	6hm					10q	
<i>Amyema miquelii</i>					10pw	10q	
<i>Amyema pendulum</i>					10p	10q	
<i>Dendrothoe vitellina</i>					10p	10q	
<i>Muellerina eucaalyptoides</i>		9n			10p	10q	
<b>Lythraceae</b>							
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>					10p		
<b>Malvaceae</b>							
<i>Abutilon oxycarpum</i>	6hm	9n	9x		10p	10q	
<i>Gynatrix pulchella</i>			9x		10p		
<i>Hibiscus heterophyllus</i>	6hm						
<b>Meliaceae</b>							
<i>Synoum glandulosum</i>	6hm						
<i>Toona ciliata</i>	6hm	9n					
<b>Menispermaceae</b>							
<i>Sarcopetalum harveyanum</i>	6hd						
<i>Stephania japonica</i> var. <i>discolor</i>	6hd 6hm	9n	9x		10p	10pw 10q	
<b>Monimiaceae</b>							
<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>	6hm	9n					10r 10s
<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i>	6hm 6k					10q	
<b>Moraceae</b>							
<i>Ficus coronata</i>	6hm	9n					
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	6hm	9n				10q	
<i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i>							
<i>Malaisia scandens</i>						10pw	
<b>Myoporaceae</b>							
<i>Myoporum floribundum</i>							
<i>Myoporum montianum</i>	6hm	9n			10p	10pw 10q	









<i>Burcaria spinosa</i>	6hm	9to	9w	10bh	10dw	10p	10pw	10q	10x	17m
<i>Citrobatus pauciflorus</i>	6hd	9n	9x							
<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>	6hm	9n	9x			10p		10q		
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	6hd			9y	10ar			10q		
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>										
<i>Plantago debilis</i>	6k	9n	9w					10q		
<i>Plantago gaudichaudii</i>		9n								
<i>Plantago hispidia</i>		9n				10p		10q		
<b>Polygalaceae</b>										
<i>Conesperma ericinum</i>									10z	
<i>Conesperma volubile</i>									10z	
<b>Polygonaceae</b>										
<i>Muehlenbeckia rhyticarya</i>						10p				
<i>Persicaria hydropter</i>		9n	9x						10x	
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>			9x							
<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>			9x							
<i>Rumex brownii</i>			9x							
<b>Portulacaceae</b>										
<i>Calandrinia calypttrata</i>	6hm			9y						
<i>Calandrinia pickeringii</i>										
<b>Proteaceae</b>										
<i>Banksia cunninghamii</i>						10p				
subsp. <i>cunninghamii</i>										
<i>Banksia ericifolia</i>										21c
<i>Banksia marginata</i>		9n	9w		10l				10z	17m
<i>Banksia oblongifolia</i>									10z	21c
<i>Banksia paludosa</i>										
<i>Banksia serrata</i>	6hm	9i								17m
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	6hm	9n	9w			10mr	10p	10q	10x	17m
<i>Conospermum longifolium</i>										
subsp. <i>longifolium</i>										
<i>Conospermum longifolium</i>									10z	
<i>angustifolium</i>										
<i>Grevillea arenaria</i>	6hm	9n	9to			10p		10q	10z	
<i>Grevillea asplenifolia</i>	6hm							10q		
<i>Grevillea baueri</i>			9w						10z	
<i>Grevillea buxifolia</i>	6hm							10q		
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i>										
<i>Grevillea laurifolia</i>					10l				10x	21c







<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	6hm	9n	10ag		10pw	10q	10z
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	6hd		9x		10p	10q	
<i>Gulola semiglauca</i>	6hd	8d					
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>							
<i>Denventia derwentiana</i>							
<i>Parahbe lithophila</i>	6g	9n					
<i>Veronica browinii</i>							
<i>Veronica calycina</i>	6hm	9n	9y		10p	10q	
<i>Veronica notabilis</i>		9n					
<i>Veronica plebeia</i>	6hm		9w				
<b>Solanaceae</b>							
<i>Duboisia myoporoides</i>							
<i>Nicotiana suaveolens</i>		9n	9x				
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	6hm	8d					
<i>Solanum cinereum</i>	6hd						
<i>Solanum prinophyllum</i>	6hm	9n	9x				
<i>Solanum pungetium</i>	6hd						
<i>Solanum steligerum</i>	6hm						
<b>Solankousiaceae</b>							
<i>Stackhousia viminea</i>		9n	9to				
<b>Sterculiaceae</b>							
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	6hd	8d					
<i>Laslopetalum ferrugineum</i>	6hm	9n	9w	10ag	10p	10pw	10z
<i>Laslopetalum macrophyllum</i>	6hm					10r	
<i>Rulingia dasyphylla</i>	6hm					10q	
<b>Stylidiaceae</b>							
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>							
<i>Stylidium laricifolium</i>	6hm	9n	9to	10ar	10q	10r	
<i>Stylidium lineare</i>			9w		10q		
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>							
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	6hm						
<i>Pimelea ligustrina</i>							
subsp. <i>hypericina</i>							
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	6hd	9n	10ag	10ar			
<b>Tremandraceae</b>							
<i>Tetratheca thymifolia</i>			10ag	10ar	10q		
<b>Ulmaceae</b>							
<i>Trema aspera</i>	6hm				10q		













