



Floristic Communities of the Iopollo Road Site

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The Iopollo Road Site (the study area, see Map) is part of a larger area of bushland extending east to the south of Iopollo Road. Yalyal Brook forms the southern boundary of this large bushland area. The study area lies on the Gingin Scarp extending to the east onto the Dandaragan Plateau. The adjacent bushland areas lie entirely on the Dandaragan Plateau.

Cleared or partially cleared lands are found to the west and south of the study area on the Swan Coastal Plain. However to the west and south of these lands is Lake Chandala. Lake Chandala is on the Register of the National Estate (Item 134) as an important site for bird breeding and habitat.

Soils of both areas are pale brown to grey colluvial sands, often with yellow sands at depth. Patches of laterites are found higher in the landscape on the Plateau.

Six quadrats have been established in road reserves in larger bushland area (Griffin 1994, 5CO3 - 5CO7; Keighery and Trudgen 1992 Iopo 1, see Table 1). These quadrats have been analysed for the System Six Update study by the Department of Environmental Protection after Gibson *et al.* (1994) (DEP 1996). High in the landscape there are *Eucalyptus marginata* and *E. calophylla* and *Banksia* Woodlands on laterites or sands. Sloping down to the Swan Coastal Plain and Lake Chandala is Community type 21c, often dominated by *Banksia ilicifolia*. On the swampy coastal plain outside the study area are Low Forests dominated by *Melaleuca rhaphiophylla*, Shrublands of *Kunzea recurva* or Woodlands of *Casuarina obesa*.

A mosaic of floristic community types were identified in the larger bushland area (Table 1). The *Eucalyptus marginata* and *E. calophylla* Woodlands on laterites were identified as floristic community type S18 (a supplementary group to Gibson *et al.* 1994 identified from the expanded data set from the Update). On the deep grey sands of the Plateau were *Banksia* Woodlands of floristic community type 23b. Along the scarp edge and in patches on the Plateau where there are deep grey or pale brown sands over yellow sands *Banksia* Woodlands or less commonly *Eucalyptus marginata* and *E. calophylla* Woodlands were identified as floristic community type 20a. Sloping down to the Swan Coastal Plain and Lake Chandala is Community type 21c, often dominated by *Banksia ilicifolia*.

Floristic community type 20a was identified in two quadrats in the larger bushland area. One of these quadrats was immediately adjacent to the study area. As the study area traverses the Gingin Scarp and Dandaragan Plateau where the soils are predominantly grey/pale brown sands over yellow sands it is expected that much of the study area is floristic community type 20a. This is the northernmost occurrence of this community type. The largest known population of the declared rare species *Chamelaucium* sp Gingin, is associated with this area of floristic community type 20a.

Table 1: Floristic Community Types

Floristic Community Types		Status of community
Supergroup 3 - Uplands, centred on Bassendean Dunes and the Dandaragan Plateau		
20a	<i>Banksia attenuata</i> woodlands over species rich dense shrublands	Endangered
21c	Low lying <i>Banksia attenuata</i> woodlands or shrublands	Not Assessed
23b	Northern <i>Banksia attenuata</i> - <i>B. menziesii</i> woodlands	Not Assessed
S18	<i>E. marginata</i> / <i>E. calophylla</i> Woodlands on laterites	Not Assessed

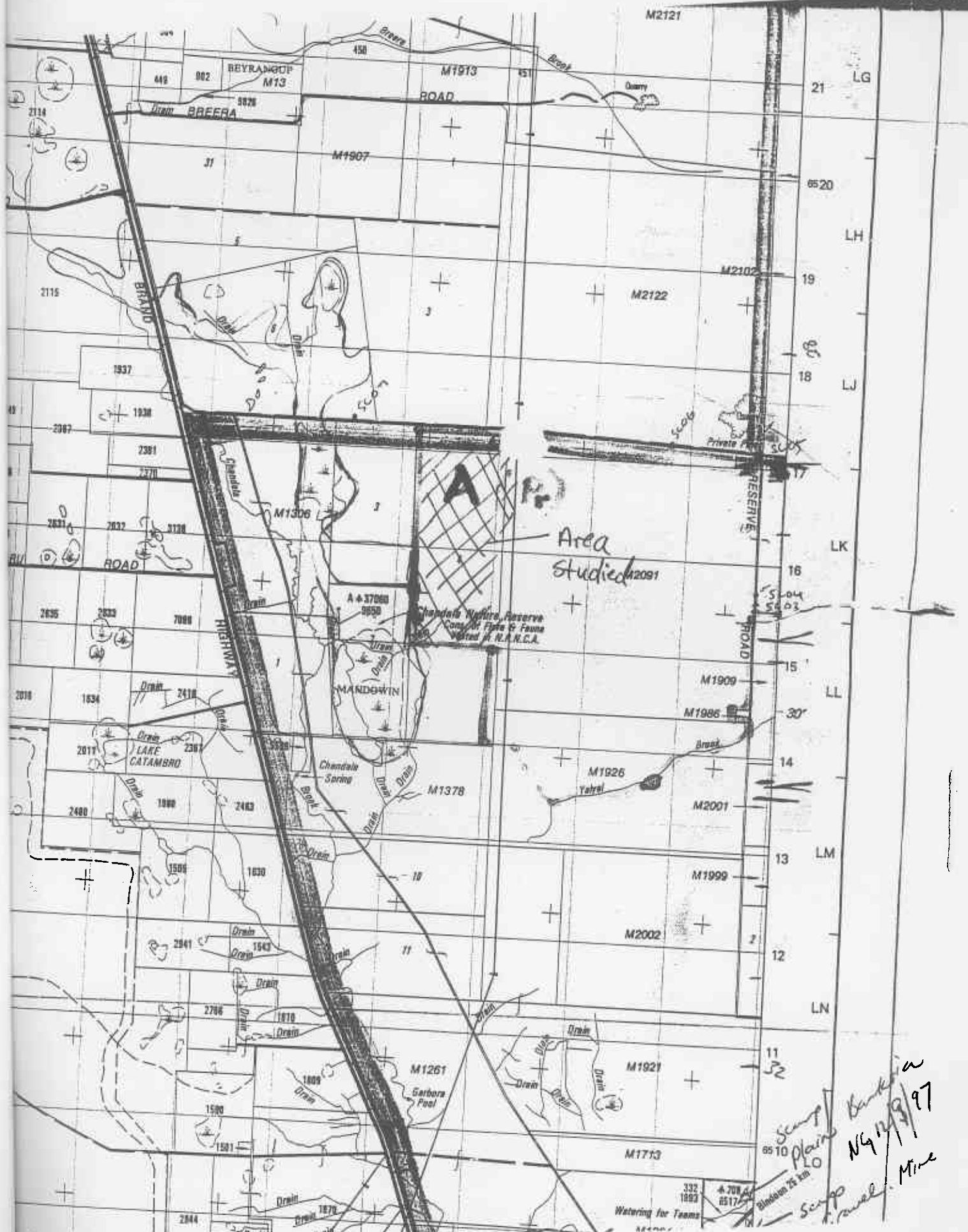
References

Department of Environmental Protection 1996 System 6 and part 1 Update Program. Unpublished bushland plot and area records and analysis.

Gibson, N., Keighery, B.J., Keighery, G.J., Burbidge, A.H., and Lyons, M.N., 1994 A Floristic Survey of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain. Unpublished Report for the Australian Heritage Commission prepared by Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation Council of Western Australia (Inc.).

Griffin, E.A. (1994) Floristic Survey of Northern Sandplains between Perth and Geraldton. Department of Agriculture, Resource Management Technical Report 144.

Keighery, B.J., and Trudgen, M.E., 1992 The Remnant Vegetation of the Eastern Side of the Swan Coastal Plain. Unpublished report to the Department of Conservation of Land Management for the National Estate Grants Program.



→ MUCHEA

Scarp
Plains
10
Blindfold 25 km
Scarp
Travel
Bank
14/12/97
Mine