

Complete RECORDING SHEET 3 before doing section 4 below

4. VEGETATION CONDITION

- This category of **information is collected last** as you will need to be familiar with the vegetation and flora information for your bushland area to assess condition.
- You will **select a rating from the six vegetation condition ratings listed in Table 2**. The condition rating is related to the vegetation structure; that is the impact of disturbance on each of these layers and consequently on the ability of the community to regenerate.
- Make notes on the factors that contribute to the condition class determined.

| Table 2: Vegetation Condition Scale | |
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| Modified from Trudgen, 1991 by B. J. Keighery for the Swan Coastal Plain Survey, 1993. | |
| 1 = 'Pristine' | Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs disturbance. |
| 2 = Excellent | Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species For example damage to trees caused by fire, the presence of non-aggressive weeds and occasional vehicle tracks. |
| 3 = Very Good | Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance. For example disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and grazing. |
| 4 = Good | Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate to it. For example disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and grazing. |
| 5 = Degraded | Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and grazing. |
| 6 = Completely Degraded | The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora composing weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs. |

RECORDING SHEET 3

5. SPECIES PRESENCE (floristic data)

In this section **every species present** in the study site is recorded. It is best to

- start with the tallest stratum, i.e. trees or shrubs, working through each stratum to work on sedges last
- within each layer record the most common species first and the most uncommon last.
- systematically collect a small sample of each of each plant species.

- **Label** each plant with a watch makers tag bearing the following information
 - **plants number**
 - **date**
 - **site code**
 - **plant's name or working name if required**
- **Record matching information on RECORDING SHEET 3**
 - **Column 1** - **Plant name** - if known record in the bushland otherwise leave blank.
 - **Column 2** - **Plant number**
 - **Column 3** - **Flowering** - TICK if species flowering
 - **Column 4** - **Identification Check** - all specimens need to be identified and the identification checked.

All labelled specimens should be placed in the plastic collecting bag for pressing at the conclusion of the study site work.

Adjacent plants - Plants not found in your site but observed adjacent to the site can be collected but record them on the recording sheet with clear indication that they are adjacent.