LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

For more information about the EPBC Act and the responsibilities of landowners and managers in relation to TECs, contact the Environment, Water, Heritage, and the Arts on (02) 6274 1111 or visit www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened.

Possible impacts to threatened account by State assessment bodies land are evaluated during land use planning and environmental impact assessment processes. TECs are also indirectly protected under Western Environmental Protection (Clearing of purpose. A number of exemptions for are prescribed under the Regulations, environmentally sensitive areas. TECs have been defined under the regulations as environmentally sensitive areas so the exemptions from requiring a clearing such clearing proposals must therefore impact. Under the Act, the assessment of the impact of an application to clear native vegetation must take into Anyone considering the possibility of community should contact DEC's Native 1800 061 025 or visit the 'land' section



Conservation categories for threatened ecological communities

Critically Endangered (CR)

Subject to major contraction in area or was already of limited distribution, and is in danger of severe modification or destruction in the immediate future.

Endangered (EN)

Subject to major contraction in area or was already of limited distribution, and is in danger of significant modification or destruction in the near future.

Vulnerable (VU)

Declining or declined in distribution and/or condition and whose ultimate security has not been secured or still widespread but will become CR, EN or PD in the near future if threatening processes continue or begin to operate.

Presumed Destroyed (PD)

No examples are left or has been extensively modified such that it is unlikely to recover in the foreseeable future.

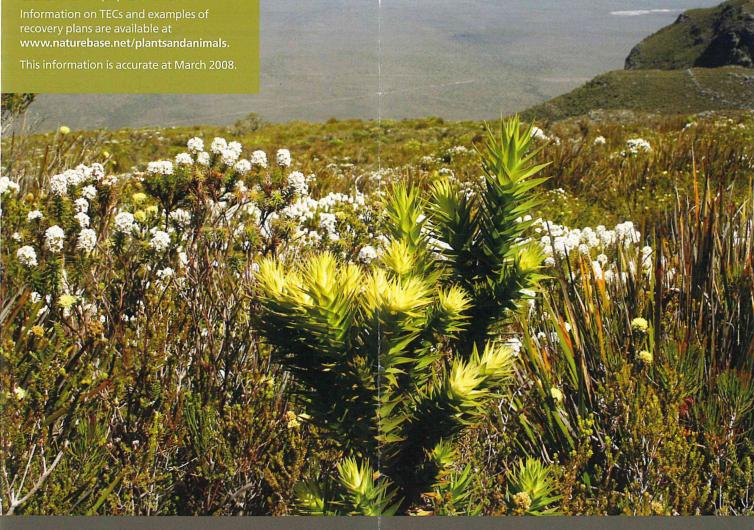
Priority Ecological Communities

Possible threatened ecological communities that do not meet the stringent survey criteria for the assessment of TECs are added to DEC's Priority Ecological Community Lists under Priorities 1, 2 and 3. Ecological Communities that are adequately known, are rare but not considered to be threatened, or meet criteria for Near Threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened list, are placed in Priority 4. These ecological communities require regular monitoring. Conservation Dependent ecological communities are placed in Priority 5.

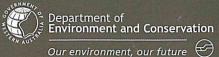


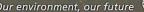
The Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Species and possible TECs, contact the TEC Database

Conserving threatened ecological communities









About threatened ecological communities

Proposed TECs are referred to the WA Threatened Ecological Communities Scientific Committee (WATECSC) for assessment. WATECSC is comprised of experts in the field of ecological community identification and conservation and includes representatives from DEC, tertiary institutions, the Western Australian Museum and other organisations and individuals. If WATECSC is satisfied that an ecological community is appropriately described, has been adequately surveyed and meets the criteria for listing as threatened, a recommendation for it to be listed as a TEC will be made through the DEC to the Environment Minister.

COMMUNITIES

ECOLOGICAL

THREATENED

CONSERVING

To date, listed TECs have primarily been identified through three types of information - regional surveys; expert knowledge in specific areas (primarily caves and microbial assemblages); and local surveys that have been verified in a regional context.

Conserving threatened

DEC approaches the conservation and management of TECs in cooperation with other landowners and managers. Many recovery actions are implemented with the involvement of recovery teams. catchment or Natural Resource Management groups, wildlife enthusiasts, school groups and the owners and managers of land on which the TECs occur.

actions that will be taken to ensure the long-term conservation of the communities. that DEC must obtain agreement from the

before recovery actions are undertaken on their land. This may include seeking resources for research and on-ground works.

Recovery teams advise, develop and oversee implementation of recovery plans for TECs. Recovery team members include DEC district staff, Species and Communities Branch staff and relevant representatives from other State Government agencies, local government authorities and catchment councils, including landowners, and members of non-government conservation groups.

Funding assistance for landowners and land managers may be available through the plans for conservation projects on TECs such as flora monitoring surveys, fencing, weed control or other necessary management. Potential funding sources include various State Government or non-government organisation programs or programs run through regional

Natural Resource Management groups including under the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage Trust or equivalent.

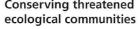
Legislation

There is currently no Western Australian legislation that deals specifically with TECs. However, TECs that occur in Western Australia may be listed as nationally threatened under the Commonwealth Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Any person or organisation may nominate communities for listing. A number of State-listed TECs have been referred to the Commonwealth Government and have been listed under the EPBC Act following review at that level. There is a legal requirement that land managers who wish to undertake actions that are likely to damage communities that are listed under the EPBC Act refer the proposal to the Commonwealth Environment Minister.









DEC develops TEC recovery plans to detail Where TECs occur on land that is privately owned or managed by other agencies, DEC seeks the support of these bodies or individuals and develops the plan in consultation with them. The plans require appropriate landowners and managers