



# **A Method to Assess Grassy Ecosystem Sites:**

## **Using floristic information to assess a site's quality**

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## A Method to Assess Grassy Ecosystem Sites: Using floristic information to assess a site's quality

### Introduction

This document presents a quantitative method that enables the assessment of the relative values of sites containing any of the communities within the grassy ecosystems found in the Southern Tablelands of NSW. This method can be used in the following vegetation types:

- The grassy groundlayer of *White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland* (Box-Gum Woodland), a listed endangered ecological community (EEC) under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (1995);
- Secondary grassland derived from Box-Gum Woodland EEC;
- Native grassland that falls under the definitions of *Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands (NSW and ACT)*, a listed threatened ecological community under the Commonwealth's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999); and
- The grassy groundlayers of Grassy Snow Gum Woodland and other regionally declining vegetation communities and the secondary grasslands derived from these.

### **The significant species concept**

This method has been developed using data collected in site surveys of grassy ecosystems throughout the Southern Tablelands in NSW and ACT since the early 1990's (see *Acknowledgments*). The method is based upon the "significant species" concept, which relies on the application of a "significance score" to most of the roughly 650 species that have been recorded in grassy ecosystems within the region. Briefly, most grassy ecosystem species have been assigned a score based on their rarity in the regional data, with the rarest species assigned a score of 5, and the most common, a score of 1. A number of species, although apparently rare in the data, are thought to be "disturbance-tolerant", "disturbance responding" or "increaser" species. This is based on observations and expert opinion. Increasers respond positively to various disturbances and are thus most commonly recorded in disturbed sites. Increaser species have been arbitrarily given a score of 1. However, not all increasers are scored 1. There is a limited subset of disturbance responders that retain their high scores, because, while responding to particular disturbance regimes (e.g. soil disturbance), they may not persist under others (e.g. grazing). Examples in this subset include Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*), Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) and Aromatic Peppergrass (*Lepidium hyssopifolium*), all of which are listed as endangered in one or more jurisdictions.

This method relies on three groupings of species, referred to as:

1. Common or increaser species, which do not add much to the value of a site; these have a significance score of 1;
2. "Indicator species, level 1", which indicate that the site has value; and
3. "Indicator species, level 2", which are the highly significant species; these are the rarest of the grassy ecosystems species and have the highest significance scores.

The indicator species are also sometimes referred to as "grazing-intolerant" or "declining" species. It is thought that these species are rare for two reasons:

1. Some species have always been rare, particularly some species which are restricted in distribution; and
2. Many species are thought to have undergone serious declines since European settlement, from disturbances such as over-grazing and application of fertilisers. This is based upon analysis of the data and observations of where such species still occur; the sites with the greatest concentrations of significant species today include cemeteries, road and rail reserves and sites such as travelling stock reserves and private land sites where grazing has been either non-existent or light (e.g. Prober & Thiele, 1993; Lunt, 1995; McIntyre, McIvor & Heard, 2002; R. Rehwinkel, unpublished data).

### **Grassland assessment**

Grasslands have been traditionally difficult to assess because of their inherent variability. Before the European settlement of the Southern Tablelands, there were extensive grassy plains as well as smaller areas of grassland within a mosaic of woodlands (Thomas *et al.* 2000). Now relatively few remnants of these communities remain in a state that resembles the former grasslands. The same applies to grassy woodland communities (Thomas *et al.*

2000). However, in some regions, large areas of grassland are retained that are variously described as native pasture, and degraded or highly modified native grassland (Environment ACT, 2005; Langford *et al.* 2004). Across the Southern Tablelands, these areas vary in their extent, according to the climate, soil types and land use history.

Within any particular area, remnant grasslands and grassy woodlands exist along a continuum. At one end of this continuum, there are the rare sites that retain a high degree of integrity (i.e. very high floristic diversity, varied structure that provides habitat for a diverse fauna, and low or absent exotic plant cover). At the other end of this continuum are the more extensive areas of native pasture, and degraded or highly modified grassland. Such grasslands usually have very low native plant diversity, limited fauna habitat values, and often a high cover and diversity of exotic plant species, many of which are either introduced pasture species or agricultural and environmental weeds.

Because grassland and woodland sites now exist in a continuum, with sites exhibiting all states between those with the highest integrity to those that are severely degraded, it has traditionally been difficult to draw a line between sites that could be described as of high flora conservation value and those which are less important for conservation. It was found necessary to develop guidelines to determine which sites should be considered to be of conservation significance. The approach presented in these guidelines provides a transparent and repeatable process that can be applied across the NSW portion of the Southern Tablelands to determine the conservation significance of any grassland and woodland site assessed. The value of these guidelines for use in the ACT needs to be further tested, though the general principles are likely to apply there too.

### **Secondary grasslands**

Grasslands vary in their origin. This has the potential to create confusion, especially in parts of the landscape that are heavily cleared and it is difficult to determine whether a site is natural or "secondary" grassland (i.e. grassland that results in the clearing of trees in a woodland or forest). This document provides guidance in those cases where it is difficult to determine whether a grassland is natural or secondary.

### **Other grassland values**

The method presented in this document provides a way to assess grasslands and woodland groundlayers primarily on their floristic values. It is important to remember that other values exist, including:

- Presence of fauna, particularly of threatened species;
- Presence of habitat attributes, including the presence of rocky outcrops, loose surface rocks, exposed banks, coarse woody debris, tree hollows, standing dead timber, or structural elements provided by certain plant species such as shrubs and tall tussocks;
- Extent or lack of cover of weed species, with sites with a high cover of perennial weed species generally of lesser value than those without weeds;
- The size of the remnant, with larger sites clearly being of greater value than smaller sites;
- The shape of the remnant, with a blocky or circular shaped site being considered to be more valuable than a long, narrow site; and
- The site's connectivity, with a site that adjoins, is adjacent to, or nearby to other sites of the same or even different vegetation types being intrinsically more valuable than an isolated site.

Sites thus need to be assessed for their other values, alongside the floristic values that can be assessed using this document.

### **Regionalisation**

This document divides the Southern Tablelands into four broad regions, as recognised in the *National Recovery Plan for Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands (NSW & ACT)* (Environment ACT, 2005, p. 13). These regions are:

- **Monaro sub-region:** from the Victorian border to the south-eastern border of the ACT and west to Kosciuszko National Park (includes Michelago, Cooma, Jindabyne and Bombala);
- **Eastern sub-region:** the area east and north-east of the ACT covering the upper Wollondilly River, upper Shoalhaven River and Lake George catchments (includes Collector, Bungendore, Taralga, Crookwell, Goulburn and Braidwood);

- **North-western sub-region:** the area north of the ACT, covering part of the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan River catchments (includes Boorowa, Crookwell, Yass, Gunning, Gundaroo and Queanbeyan); and
- **ACT:** an area defined by the political boundary.

Each of these sub-regions have different floras, manifested in the differences in the forb, shrub and tree species that are found in each sub-region. Additionally, each region has distinctive land-use patterns. Much of the Monaro sub-region retains its native grassland and substantial areas of woodland also remain, though only relatively small areas retain moderate to high floristic values. In contrast, while there were formerly substantial areas of natural grassland and box-gum woodland in the North-western sub-region, very few areas remain, as grasslands and woodlands in this area have suffered extensive modification for "pasture improvement" and cropping. An intermediate picture emerges in the Eastern sub-region, where, while there has been extensive pasture modification and cropping, some large remnants of high value have been retained. The ACT has similarly lost much of its grassland and woodland to urban development, as well as to pasture modification and cropping, though, significantly, large areas have now been secured for conservation in this territory.

As stated previously, while the significance scores for all species were derived using data from both NSW and ACT, this assessment method has not been tested specifically on ACT sites. However, sites in the ACT could in all likelihood be assessed for their *relative* value using this method by applying the criteria and lists derived for the North-western sub-region (see *The analysis of data to derive a Significance Score*, below), being mindful of the fact that the ACT Government has developed specific methods to assess whether sites qualify as native grassland and woodland communities within the ACT (ACT Government, 2004; ACT Government, 2005).

The floristic and land-use differences expressed between the regions are reflected in the slight differences in species lists used for assessment in this method (see Appendices 1, 2 & 3.).

#### ***The floristic value score method***

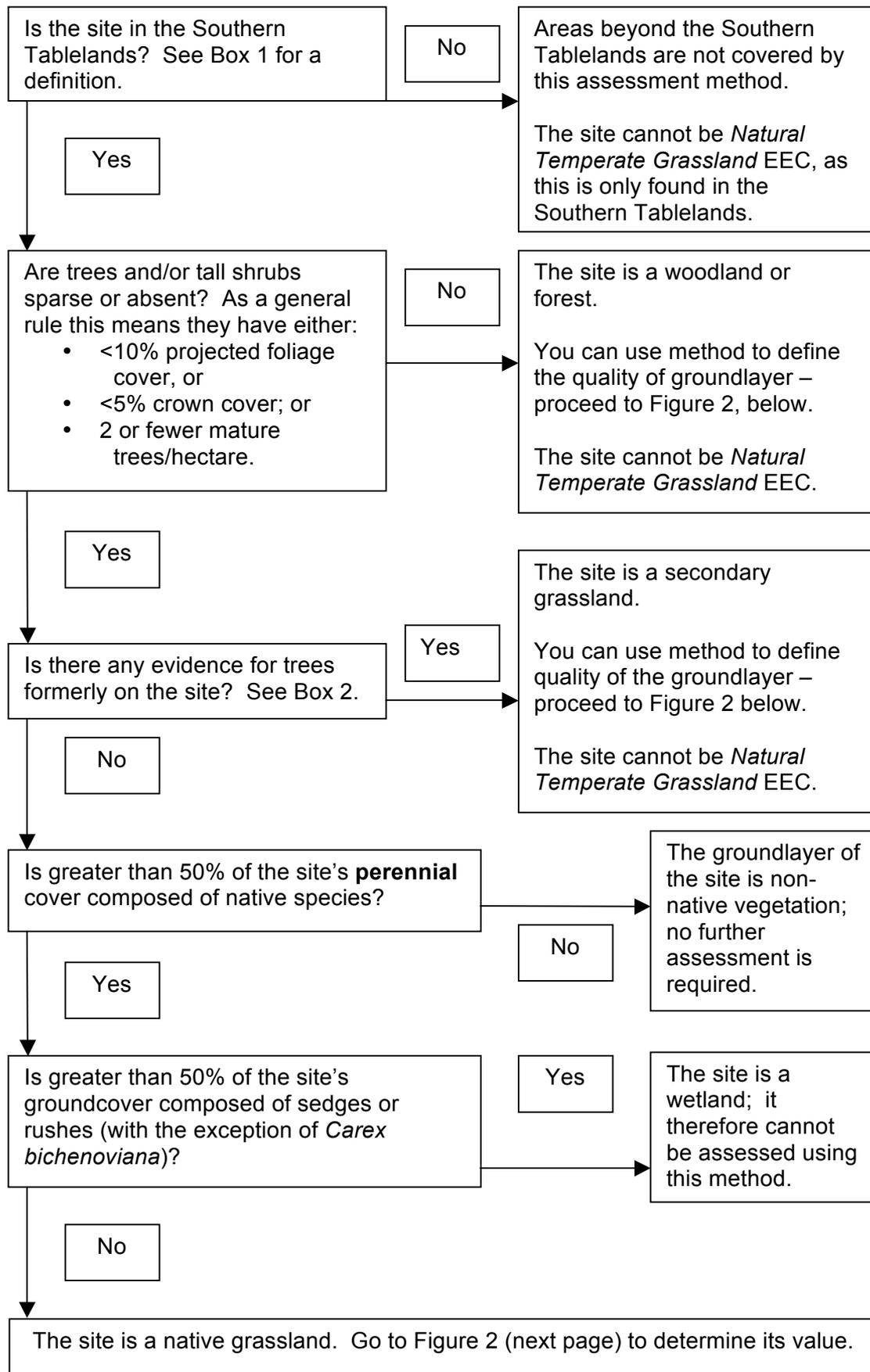
The method set out in this document allows assessment to be made of the following:

1. Is the site a natural or secondary grassland?;
2. If it is a natural grassland, does it have values consistent with those defined for the *Natural Temperate Grassland* EEC?; and
3. Regardless of which type of grassland or woodland groundlayer present, what is its floristic value?

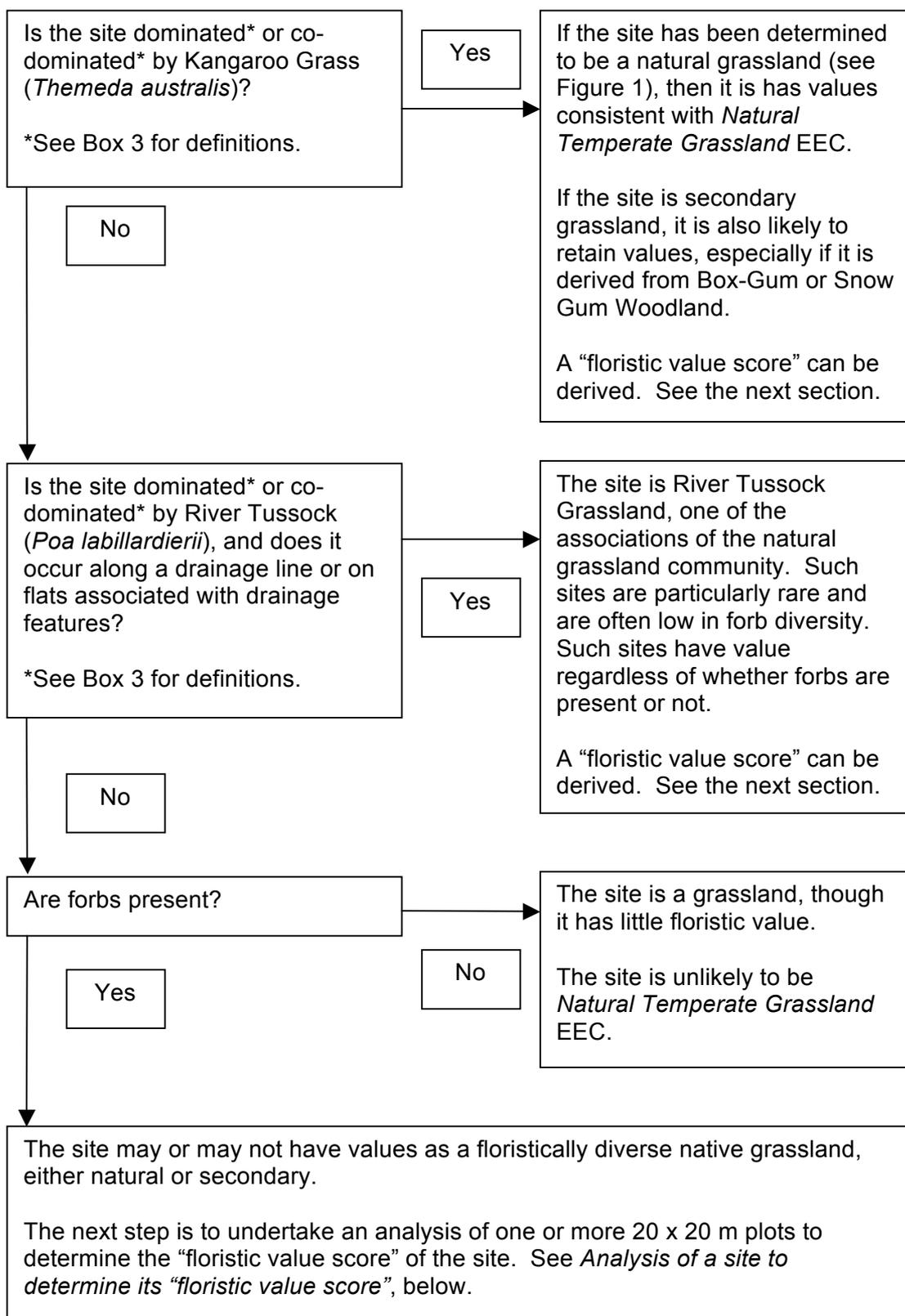
Recently, an analysis has been undertaken to define the various associations found within natural grassland communities of the Southern Tablelands. Eight clearly defined associations have been identified using PATN analysis of a large dataset (Rehwinkel, in prep.). Previous analyses in the region (Thomas *et al.*, 2000; Tindall *et al.*, 2006) have defined a number of grassy woodland communities within the region. The method presented in this document treats all grassland and woodland communities of the Southern Tablelands as a single entity, with no reference to the differences found between the variously identified associations. To a large degree, however, the regional rarity of some of the forb, shrub and tree species in the regional data used to develop this method parallels the indicator species that help define some of the previously defined grassland or woodland associations. In reality, this method treats grassy ecosystems as three entities, as defined by the geographic boundaries defined in Environment ACT (2005). However, one of the associations of the natural grassland types is recognised in this method, namely the River Tussock Grassland dominated by *Poa labillardierii* that occurs along drainage lines or on flats associated with drainage features. Sites of this association in good condition are particularly rare and are often low in forb diversity. Most sites have a high cover of exotic perennial grasses, so sites in which the cover is dominated by a native species have conservation value, regardless of whether forbs are present or not.

Figure 1, below, enables identification of a site's broad vegetation type. Figure 2 enables assessment of some types within the *Natural Temperate Grassland* EEC. Following the steps outlined in Figures 1 & 2 will lead to the next step, which is the process of analysis to determine a site's "floristic value score".

**Figure 1. Decision tree for assessing the vegetation type of a grassy site**



**Figure 2. Decision tree for assessing conservation value of a grassy site**



### **Box 1. Definition of the Southern Tablelands**

This area is bounded by the Snowy Mountains and Brindabella Range in the south-west, coastal ranges (including the Kybayan and Budawang Ranges and the escarpments to the east) and extends north to the Abercrombie River. The north-western boundary extends from Burrinjuck Dam to Boorowa, then east to the Lachlan River and north to Wyangala Dam (from Environment ACT, 2005).

### **Box 2. Identifying secondary grassland**

Is there any evidence of trees formerly occurring on the site? For example, are there stumps, stump holes, or significant amounts of fallen timber, or are there trees of woodland or forest tree species in a woodland or forest formation adjacent to or near the site, on similar topographical positions and geological substrates?

If these signs are evident, then the site may be a “derived grassland”, more commonly referred to as “secondary grassland” (i.e. a grassland that results from the clearing of woodland or forest trees).

However, where there is no or little or no evidence of the site being a secondary grassland, then the site should be given the benefit of the doubt and be accepted as natural grassland.

### **Box 3. Definitions of “dominated” and “co-dominated”**

“Dominated” means that a species covers the majority of the site. “Co-dominated” means that a species covers a large part of the site with another species covering roughly an equal amount of the site.

### **Analysis of a site to determine its “floristic value score”**

This analysis requires a number of steps:

1. Determine which sub-region you are in (see *Regionalisation*, above);
2. Determine how many plots are required (one plot may be enough for a small, uniform site, while several plots may be required in larger sites);
3. Set up the plot(s) and collect the required data;
4. Analyse the data using the method outlined below.

### **How to gather data: stratification, sampling effort and data collection**

#### ***Stratification***

A preliminary inspection of the site should be undertaken to assess the homogeneity of vegetation types and condition classes present. A map could be produced that clearly defines the boundaries of the different stratification units and brief notes could be made of each unit, outlining why it is regarded as distinct and homogenous.

A number of plots will be required in each stratification unit to calculate the “floristic value score” of each unit. The number of plots depends on the size of each stratification unit. The following levels of survey effort provide a guide as to how many plots could be defined:

- 1 plot per stratification unit of 2 hectares or less;
- 4 plots per stratification unit of between 2 and 50 hectares; and
- 10 plots per stratification unit of 51 and 250 hectares.

#### ***Field method***

The predetermined number of 20 x 20 m plots should be located within each stratification unit. For linear-shaped units (e.g. road verges or other narrow sites) the shape of the plot may be varied (e.g. 10 x 40 m or even 5 x 80 m), but the area of the plots must remain the same (400 m<sup>2</sup>). Plots should be placed away from environmental boundaries such as major soil and slope changes and changes in vegetation type or condition. They should be placed in

areas with homogenous, representative vegetation, with care being taken to sample at the highest quality (i.e. the most floristically rich) areas of each stratification unit. Plots should avoid areas of local disturbance (e.g. roads, tracks and dam edges).

### **Data collection**

Data should be collected on a datasheet. For this assessment method, it is not necessary to provide cover-abundance scores for each species, though ideally this data should be collected if time permits, as it will be useful for further analysis. If time is restricted, then it is only necessary to record abundance for the “rarer” species at the site (i.e. those that occur in densities of fewer than four plants per plot), and for River Tussock (*Poa labillardieri*) where the grassland site is along a drainage line or on flats associated with drainage features, or Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*). These two grass species require their cover to be noted.

If cover-abundance scores are to be collected, then the following scores, based on the Braun-Blanquet scale, should be used:

r	< 5 % cover and solitary (<4 individuals)
+	< 5 % cover and few (4-15 individuals)
1	< 5 % cover and numerous/scattered (>15 individuals)
2	5 % - 25 % cover
3	26 % - 50 % cover
4	51 % - 75 % cover
5	>75 % cover

The centre of each plot could be recorded on the site datasheet, preferably using a GPS, and the location of the plots could be marked on a map, showing the stratification units. Each plot could be given a unique plot number.

In the case of River Tussock (*Poa labillardieri*) where the grassland site is along a drainage line or on flats associated with drainage features, or Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), these species are regarded as “indicator species level 2” for the purposes of the determination of a site’s “floristic value score”, *but only if the density of these species is Braun-Blanquet score of 3 or greater*. Conversely, if the cover of this species, or of River Tussock (*Poa labillardieri*) where the grassland site is along a drainage line or on flats associated with drainage features is in Braun-Blanquet cover classes of 2 or below, then these species are regarded as a common or increaser species. If River Tussock occurs in high cover classes in mid- or upper-slope situations, then it is not to be regarded as an “indicator species level 2”.

As a general rule, grasslands and grassy groundlayers of woodlands should only be assessed using this method when the diversity is most evident. Ideally, for most sites this will be during the spring or early summer. This method is rendered somewhat ineffective if the site has been heavily grazed, as many species may be present, though the grazing animals will have targeted many of the forbs and they may not be detectable. Similarly, drought conditions will mask a site’s diversity. Conversely, in years of heavy, late summer or early autumn rains, it may be possible to assess a site in late autumn, though, once again, not all species may have emerged.

### The analysis of data to derive a “floristic value score”

The following is the analysis method, accompanied by a worked example, in this case a 20 x 20 m plot from Gundry Travelling Stock Reserve.

**Step 1.** List all native species in the plot and show their Braun-Blanquet scores. This is Table A. See p.9 for Braun-Blanquet scores.

**Example Table A.**

Species name	Braun-Blanquet score
<i>Themeda australis</i>	4
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	2
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	2
<i>Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides</i>	2
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	3
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	+
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i>	+
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	r
<i>Cheilanthes</i> sp.	r
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	r
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	r
<i>Euchiton</i> sp.	r
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	r
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	r
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	r
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	r
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	r
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	r

**Step 2.** As an aid in the analysis, add a type code for each species, noting whether the species is a common or increaser species (C), an indicator level 1 (I), or indicator level 2 (2). Refer to Appendices 1, 2 or 3 to define these codes, according to the sub-region in which the site occurs. In this case, Appendix 2 was used.

**Example Table B.**

Species name	Braun-Blanquet score	Species type code
<i>Themeda australis</i>	4	2*
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2	I
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	2	C
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2	2
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2	I
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	2	C
<i>Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides</i>	2	2
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	3	C
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	+	2
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i>	+	I
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	R	I
<i>Cheilanthes</i> sp.	R	2
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	R	C
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	r	I
<i>Euchiton</i> sp.	r	C
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	r	I
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	r	2
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	r	I
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	r	I
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	r	2
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	r	2

\*Note that as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) occurs at the site in Braun-Blanquet cover classes of 3 or above, then this species is recorded as an “indicator species level 2”. If the cover of this species, or of River Tussock (*Poa labillardieri*) where the grassland site is along a drainage line or on flats associated with drainage features is in Braun-Blanquet cover classes of 2 or below, then these species are regarded as a common or increaser species.

**Step 3.** Add another column and place the Braun-Blanquet scores for all Indicator species level 2 in this column. Then tally the number of Indicator species level 2. Note: do NOT add the numbers.

**Example Table C.**

Species name	Braun-Blanquet score	Species type code	Indicator species level 2
<i>Themeda australis</i>	4	2	4
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2	l	
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	2	C	
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2	2	2
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2	l	
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	2	C	
<i>Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides</i>	2	2	2
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	3	C	
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	+	2	+
<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>	+	l	
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	r	l	
<i>Cheilanthes</i> sp.	r	2	r
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	r	C	
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	r	l	
<i>Euchiton</i> sp.	r	C	
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	r	l	
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	r	2	r
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	r	l	
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	r	l	
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	r	2	r
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	r	2	r
<b>Tally</b>			<b>8</b>

**Step 4.** Add another column and place the Braun-Blanquet scores for all Indicator species level 2 in this column with the exception of the “r” species (i.e. those that are rare in the plot). Then tally the number of Indicator species level 2 with the exception of those with scores of “r”. Note: do NOT add the numbers.

**Example Table D.**

Species name	Braun-Blanquet score	Species type code	Indicator species level 2	Indicator species level 2 with the exception of those with scores of “r”
<i>Themeda australis</i>	4	2	4	4
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2	l		
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	2	C		
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2	l		
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	2	C		
<i>Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	3	C		
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	+	2	+	+
<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>	+	l		
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	r	l		
<i>Cheilanthes</i> sp.	r	2	r	
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	r	C		
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	r	l		
<i>Euchiton</i> sp.	r	C		
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	r	l		
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	r	2	r	
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	r	l		
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	r	l		
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	r	2	r	
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	r	2	r	
<b>Tally</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

**Step 5.** Add another column and place the Braun-Blanquet scores for all indicator species (level 1 & 2) in this column. Do not tally this column.

**Example Table E.**

Species name	Braun-Blanquet score	Species type code	Indicator species level 2	Indicator species level 2 with the exception of those with scores of "r"	Indicator species (level 1 & 2)
<i>Themeda australis</i>	4	2	4	4	4
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2	l			2
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	2	C			
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2	l			2
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	2	C			
<i>Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides</i>	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	3	C			
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	+	2	+	+	+
<i>Leptorrhynchos squamatus</i>	+	l			+
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	r	l			r
<i>Cheilanthes</i> sp.	r	2	r		r
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	r	C			
<i>Dianella revolute</i>	r	l			r
<i>Euchiton</i> sp.	r	C			
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	r	l			r
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	r	2	r		r
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	r	l			r
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	r	l			r
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	r	2	r		r
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	r	2	r		r
<b>Tally</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	

**Step 6.** Add another column and place the Braun-Blanquet scores for all indicator species (level 1 & 2) species in this column BUT ONLY IF their scores are NOT "r". Then tally this column.

**Example Table F.**

Species name	Braun-Blanquet score	Species type code	Indicator species level 2	Indicator species level 2 with the exception of those with scores of "r"	Indicator species (level 1 & 2)	Indicator species levels 1 & 2 with the exception of those with scores of "r"
<i>Themeda australis</i>	4	2	4	4	4	4
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	2	l			2	2
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	2	C				
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2	l			2	2
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	2	C				
<i>Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	3	C				
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	+	2	+	+	+	+
<i>Leptorrhynchos squamatus</i>	+	l			+	+
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	r	l			r	
<i>Cheilanthes</i> sp.	r	2	r		r	
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	r	C				
<i>Dianella revolute</i>	r	l			r	
<i>Euchiton</i> sp.	r	C				
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	r	l			r	
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	r	2	R		r	
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	r	l			r	
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	r	l			r	
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	r	2	R		r	
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	r	2	R		r	
<b>Tally</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>7</b>

### **Step 7. Calculation of the “floristic value score”**

The final step is to total the three tally figures at the base of table in Table F. Totalling the *Indicator species level 2 with the exception of those with scores of “r”* column and the *Indicator species levels 1 & 2 with the exception of those with scores of “r”* column - **8 + 4 + 7** - gives a total of **19**. This is the “floristic value score” for this plot. A sample Table F is in Appendix 4. This can be photocopied for use in the field, and for calculation of “floristic value scores”.

If the score derived using this method is 4 or above, then the site has moderate to high floristic value. Relative values can be compared by reference to this score, with clearly higher scores reflecting higher floristic values. Note that there may be an apparently high floristic diversity at the site. However, if many or most of the species are either common or increaser species, or alternatively, most are rare at the site (i.e. they occur in frequencies of three plants or fewer each in the plot), such species do not contribute anything to the total expressed in the “floristic value score” and as a result, the site has relatively low value.

If the site is a natural grassland and achieves a score of 4 or more, then it has values consistent with those defined for the Natural Temperate Grassland EEC.

### **Reporting**

The following presents some suggested reporting formats.

The grassland has values consistent with those defined for the *Natural Temperate Grassland EEC* under the *Commonwealth EPBC Act, 1999*. if the sampled plot(s) satisfies the following criteria:

1. The site is in the Southern Tablelands; and
2. Trees are absent, or are present but only in densities of <10% projected foliage cover, <5% crown cover, or 2 or fewer mature trees per hectare;
3. It is not a secondary grassland; and
4. Greater than 50% of the site's perennial cover is native; and
5. The site is not a wetland; and
6. One of the following are satisfied:
  - a. The site is dominated by Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), regardless of how much floristic diversity the site has; or
  - b. The site is dominated or co-dominated by River Tussock (*Poa labillardierii*), and occurs along a drainage line or on flats associated with drainage features; or
  - c. The site is dominated by grasses of other species and forbs are present such that its “floristic value score” is 4 or greater.

A site which is not natural grassland may be one of the following:

1. Groundlayer of Box-Gum Woodland EEC under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995*;
2. Groundlayer of Snow Gum Woodland or other declining woodland communities; or
3. Secondary grassland derived from a woodland or forest community.

For these communities, if the “floristic value score” of the grassland plot is 4 or more, then the site can be considered to have a moderate to high conservation value. This score only applies to the site's floristic values and other values may be present.

If the grassland or woodland site is large and a number of plots have been analysed, then it is possible to present an average “floristic value score” by summing the totals of all scores and dividing by the number of plots taken. An alternative would be to present the range of values recorded from all the plots. Presentation of a combination of these approaches would be preferable. For example, a 55 ha site with five plots may be said to have an average “floristic value score” of 14, with the range of 5 to 23 ( $n = 5$ ).

While this method enables the separation of sites of moderate to high floristic values from those of low floristic value, it would be purely arbitrary to draw a line that separates moderate from high values. The expression of the “floristic value score” provides an effective means to derive relative values for all grassy ecosystems sites, enabling the comparison of relative values of sites across the region.

### **Acknowledgments and disclaimer**

This methodology has been developed with the inputs of data and ideas of many people. I thank Sarah Sharp, David Eddy and Greg Baines variously for major impetus, inputs into the development of this concept, application of the idea, refinement and review of the “increaser species”, discussions about the “cut-off lines”, suggestions for text and flow-charts, analysis of data, and review of previous versions of this document. John Briggs is also thanked for his support and technical inputs. I thank Sally Stephens and the ANPC for providing the impetus and opportunity to present this information and Margaret Ning who assisted me in the training course which introduced this method. Margaret provided very useful suggestions to make the document easier to use.

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The ideas and concepts presented in this document are those of the author and not the opinions of the Director-General of the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

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**Appendix 1. List of species of the Monaro Sub-region.**

**C = common or increaser species;**

**I = indicator species level 1;**

**2 = indicator species level 2;**

**\* *Themeda australis* and *Poa labillardieri* need to be treated as indicator species level 2 if they dominate a site (see p. 9 in guidelines).**

**Note that not all species found in grassy ecosystems of the sub-region are on this list. If other species are recorded in your plot, treat them as C species.**

<i>Acacia dawsonii</i>	2	<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	2	<i>Geranium antrorsum</i>	2
<i>Acacia doratoxylon</i>	2	<i>Calotis anthemoides</i>	2	<i>Geranium spp.</i> (excluding <i>G. antrorsum</i> )	C
<i>Acacia gunnii</i>	2	<i>Calotis glandulosa</i>	2	<i>Gingidia harveyana</i>	2
<i>Acacia siculiformis</i>	2	<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	2	<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	2
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	2	<i>Calotis scabiosifolia</i> var. <i>integrifolia</i>	2	<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	1
<i>Acacia uncinata</i>	2	<i>Calotis scapigera</i>	2	<i>Gompholobium spp.</i>	2
<i>Acaena spp.</i>	C	<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	2	<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i>	2
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	2	<i>Cardamine spp.</i>	2	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	2
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	2	<i>Carex bichenoviana</i>	2	<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	2
<i>Agrostis spp.</i>	C	<i>Carex spp.</i> (excluding <i>C. bichenoviana</i> )	C	<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	1	<i>Cassinia spp.</i>	C	<i>Grevillea lanigera</i>	2
<i>Allocasuarina nana</i>	2	<i>Centella spp.</i>	2	<i>Gynatrix pulchella</i>	2
<i>Alternanthera sp.A</i>	C	<i>Centipeda spp.</i>	C	<i>Gypsophylla tubulosa</i>	C
<i>Ammobium alatum</i>	2	<i>Chamaesyce drummondii</i>	C	<i>Hakea microcarpa</i>	2
<i>Amphibromus spp.</i>	C	<i>Cheilanthes spp.</i>	2	<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>	1
<i>Aphanes australiana</i>	C	<i>Chenopodium pumilio</i>	C	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	2
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	C	<i>Chloris truncata</i>	C	<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i>	2
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	2	<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	1	<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	2
<i>Asperula ambleia</i>	2	<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	1	<i>Hemarthria incinata</i>	2
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	1	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	2	<i>Hovea linearis</i>	2
<i>Asperula scoparia</i>	1	<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	C	<i>Hydrocotyle algida</i>	C
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	2	<i>Cotula alpina</i>	2	<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>	C
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	2	<i>Cotula australis</i>	C	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	1
<i>Australopyrum pectinatum</i>	C	<i>Craspedia spp.</i>	2	<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>	C
<i>Austrodanthonia spp.</i>	C	<i>Crassula spp.</i>	C	<i>Hymenanthera dentata</i>	C
<i>Austrofestuca spp.</i>	2	<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	2	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	2
<i>Austrostipa spp.</i>	C	<i>Cullen microcephalum</i>	2	<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	2
<i>Baekia utilis</i>	C	<i>Cullen tenax</i>	2	<i>Hypoxis spp.</i>	2
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	2	<i>Cymbonotus spp.</i>	C	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	C
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	2	<i>Cymbonopogon refractus</i>	2	<i>Indigofera australis</i>	2
<i>Blechnum spp.</i>	2	<i>Cynodon dactylis</i>	C	<i>Isoetopsis graminifolia</i>	2
<i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i>	2	<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>	2	<i>Isolepis spp.</i>	C
<i>Bossiaea foliosa</i>	C	<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	C	<i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i>	2
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	2	<i>Cyperus spp.</i>	C	<i>Joycea pallida</i>	C
<i>Bossiaea riparia</i>	2	<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	C	<i>Juncus spp.</i>	C
<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>	C	<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i>	2	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	C
<i>Botrichium australe</i>	2	<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>	2	<i>Kunzea parvifolia</i>	C
<i>Brachycome aculeata</i>	2	<i>Daviesia mimosoides</i>	2	<i>Lagenifera stipitata</i>	2
<i>Brachycome decipiens</i>	2	<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	C	<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i>	2
<i>Brachycome diversifolia</i>	2	<i>Derwentia perfoliata</i>	2	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	2
<i>Brachycome graminea</i>	2	<i>Derwentia perfoliata</i>	2	<i>Leptorhynchos elongatus</i>	2
<i>Brachycome heterodonta</i>	1	<i>Desmodium brachypodium</i>	2	<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>	1
<i>Brachycome radicans</i>	2	<i>Desmodium varians</i>	2	<i>Leptospermum spp.</i>	C
<i>Brachycome rigidula</i>	2	<i>Deyeuxia quadrisetata</i>	2	<i>Lespedeza juncea</i>	2
<i>Brachycome scapigera</i>	2	<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	2	<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i>	2
<i>Brachycome spathulata</i>	2	<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	2	<i>Leucopogon fletcheri</i>	2
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	2	<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	2	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	2
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	2	<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	2	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	2
<i>Bulbine glauca</i>	2	<i>Dichelachne spp.</i>	C	<i>Liliopsis polyantha</i>	2
<i>Caesia calliantha</i>	2	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	C	<i>Linum marginale</i>	2
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	2	<i>Dichondra sp.A</i>	C	<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	2	<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	2	<i>Lomandra bracteata</i>	2
		<i>Dillwynia spp.</i>	2	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	2
		<i>Diplarrena moraea</i>	2	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	2
		<i>Dipodium punctatum</i>	2	<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	2
		<i>Discaria pubescens</i>	2	<i>Lomatia myricoides</i>	2
		<i>Diuris spp.</i>	2	<i>Lotus australis</i>	2
		<i>Dodonaea procumbens</i>	2	<i>Luzula spp.</i>	2
		<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	2	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	C
		<i>Drosera peltata</i>	C	<i>Melichrum urceolatus</i>	2
		<i>Einadia nutans</i>	C	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	C
		<i>Einadia trigonos</i>	2	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>	2
		<i>Elymus scaber</i>	C	<i>Microtis spp.</i>	2
		<i>Enneapogon nigricans</i>	C	<i>Mitrasacme serpyllifolia</i>	2
		<i>Epacris spp.</i>	2	<i>Muelenbeckia axilaris</i>	2
		<i>Epilolium spp.</i>	C	<i>Neopaxia australasica</i>	2
		<i>Eragrostis spp.</i>	C	<i>Opecularia hispida</i>	2
		<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	2	<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	2
		<i>Erodium crinitum</i>	C	<i>Oreomyrrhis argentea</i>	2
		<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>	2	<i>Oreomyrrhis eriopoda</i>	2
		<i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i>	2	<i>Oxalis spp.</i>	C
		<i>Eucalyptus lacrimans</i>	2	<i>Ozothamnus spp.</i>	C
		<i>Euchiton spp.</i>	C	<i>Panicum effusum</i>	C
		<i>Galium gaudichaudii</i>	2	<i>Pelargonium spp.</i>	2
		<i>Gentiana bredboensis</i>	2	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	2

<i>Pentapogon quadrifidus</i>	2
<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>	C
<i>Persoonia</i> spp.	2
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	1
<i>Pimelea glauca</i>	2
<i>Pimelea pauciflora</i>	C
<i>Plantago antarctica</i>	2
<i>Plantago euryphylla</i>	2
<i>Plantago gaudichaudii</i>	2
<i>Plantago varia</i>	1
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	*
<i>Poa meionectes</i>	C
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	C
<i>Podolepis hieracioides</i>	2
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	2
<i>Polygala japonica</i>	2
<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	2
<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	2
<i>Prasophyllum</i> spp.	2
<i>Pratia pedunculata</i>	2
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	2
<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>	C
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	C
<i>Pterostylis</i> spp.	2
<i>Pultenaea</i> spp.	2
<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	2
<i>Restio australis</i>	2
<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i>	2
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	2
<i>Rumex brownii</i>	C
<i>Rumex dumosus</i>	C
<i>Rutidosis leiopelis</i>	2
<i>Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides</i>	2
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	C
<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	C
<i>Scleranthus diander</i>	C
<i>Scleranthus fasciculatus</i>	2
<i>Scutellaria humilis</i>	2
<i>Sebaea ovata</i>	2
<i>Selliera radicans</i>	2
<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>	2
<i>Senecio</i> spp. (excluding <i>S. linearifolius</i> )	C
<i>Solanum linearifolium</i>	2
<i>Solenogyne dominii</i>	C
<i>Solenogyne gunnii</i>	C
<i>Sorghum leiocladum</i>	2
<i>Spiranthes sinensis</i>	2
<i>Sporobolus</i> spp.	C
<i>Stackhousia monogyne</i>	2
<i>Stellaria angustifolia</i>	2
<i>Stellaria multiflora</i>	2
<i>Stellaria pungens</i>	2
<i>Stuartina</i> spp.	C
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	2
<i>Swainsona</i> spp.	2
<i>Tetradlea</i> spp.	2
<i>Thelymitra</i> spp.	2
<i>Themeda australis</i>	*
<i>Thesium australe</i>	2
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	2
<i>Trachymene humilis</i>	2
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	2
<i>Tripogon loliformis</i>	C
<i>Triptilodiscus pygmaeus</i>	2
<i>Utricularia dichotoma</i>	2
<i>Velleia montana</i>	2
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	2
<i>Veronica</i> spp.	2
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	2
<i>Vittadinia</i> spp.	C
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.	C
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	2
<i>Xerochrysum</i> spp.	2
<i>Zornia dyctiocarpa</i>	2

## Appendix 2. List of species of the Eastern Sub-region.

C = common or increaser species;

I = indicator species level 1;

2 = indicator species level 2;

\* *Themeda australis* and *Poa labillardieri* need to be treated as indicator species level 2 if they dominate a site (see p. 9 in guidelines).

Note that not all species found in grassy ecosystems of the sub-region are on this list. If other species are recorded in your plot, treat them as C species.

*Acacia armata* (syn. *paradoxa*)

<i>Acacia armata</i> (syn. <i>paradoxa</i> )	2
<i>Acacia brownii</i>	2
<i>Acacia dawsonii</i>	2
<i>Acacia gunnii</i>	2
<i>Acacia siculiformis</i>	2
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	2
<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	2
<i>Acaena</i> spp.	C
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	2
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	2
<i>Agrostis</i> spp.	C
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	2
<i>Allocasuarina distyla</i>	2
<i>Allocasuarina luehmanna</i>	2
<i>Alternanthera</i> sp.A	C
<i>Ammobium alatum</i>	2
<i>Amphibromus</i> spp.	C
<i>Aphanes australiana</i>	C
<i>Aristida behriana</i>	2
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	C
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	2
<i>Arthropodium minus</i>	2
<i>Asperula ambleia</i>	2
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	1
<i>Asperula scoparia</i>	1
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	2
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	2
<i>Astrotricha ledifolia</i>	2
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	C
<i>Austrofestuca</i> spp.	2
<i>Austrostipa</i> spp.	C
<i>Axonopus affinis</i>	C
<i>Baekia utilis</i>	2
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	2
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	2
<i>Blechnum</i> sp.	2
<i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i>	2
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	2
<i>Bossiaea riparia</i>	2
<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>	C
<i>Botrichium australe</i>	2
<i>Brachycome aculeata</i>	2
<i>Brachycome decipiens</i>	2
<i>Brachycome diversifolia</i>	2
<i>Brachycome graminea</i>	2
<i>Brachycome heterodonta</i>	2
<i>Brachycome ptychocarpa</i>	2
<i>Brachycome rigidula</i>	2
<i>Brachycome scapigera</i>	2
<i>Brachycome spathulata</i>	2
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	2
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	2

<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	2
<i>C. bichenoviana</i>	2
<i>Caesia calliantha</i>	2
<i>Caladenia</i> spp.	2
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	2
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	1
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	2
<i>Calotis anthemoides</i>	2
<i>Calotis glandulosa</i>	2
<i>Calotis scabiosifolia</i> var. <i>integrifolia</i>	2
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	2
<i>Carex bichenoviana</i>	2
<i>Carex</i> spp. (excluding <i>C. bichenoviana</i> )	C
<i>Cassinia</i> spp.	C
<i>Cassytha</i> spp.	C
<i>Centella</i> spp.	2
<i>Centipeda cunninghamiana</i>	C
<i>Centipeda minima</i>	C
<i>Centrolepis strigosa</i>	2
<i>Chamaesyce drummondii</i>	C
<i>Cheilanthes</i> spp.	2
<i>Cheiranthra cyanea</i>	2
<i>Chenopodium pumilio</i>	C
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	C
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	1
<i>Chrysocephalum</i> <i>semipapposum</i>	2
<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	2
<i>Comesperma ericinum</i>	2
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	C
<i>Cotula alpina</i>	2
<i>Cotula australis</i>	C
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	2
<i>Craspedia</i> spp.	2
<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2
<i>Crassula</i> spp.	C
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	2
<i>Cullen microcephalum</i>	2
<i>Cullen tenax</i>	2
<i>Cymbonotus</i> spp.	C
<i>Cymbonopogon refractus</i>	2
<i>Cynodon dactylis</i>	C
<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>	2
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	C
<i>Cyperus</i> spp.	C
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	2
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	C
<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i>	2
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	2
<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>	2
<i>Daviesia mimosoides</i>	2
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	2
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	2
<i>Deyeuxia quadriseta</i>	2
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	2
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	1
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	2
<i>Dichelachne</i> spp.	C
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	C
<i>Dichondra</i> sp.A	2
<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	2
<i>Digitaria</i> spp.	C
<i>Dillwynia</i> spp.	2
<i>Dipodium punctatum</i>	2
<i>Discaria pubescens</i>	2
<i>Diuris</i> spp.	2
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	2
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	C
<i>Echinopogon</i> spp.	C
<i>Einadia hastata</i>	2
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	C
<i>Einadia trigonos</i>	2
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	C
<i>Enneapogon nigricans</i>	C
<i>Epacris</i> spp.	2
<i>Epilobium</i> spp.	C

<i>Eragrostis</i> spp.	C	<i>Luzula</i> spp.	1	<i>Stellaria multiflora</i>	2
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	2	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	C	<i>Stellaria pungens</i>	2
<i>Erodium crinitum</i>	C	<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>	1	<i>Stuartina</i> spp.	C
<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>	2	<i>Mentha diemenica</i>	2	<i>Stylidium despectum</i>	2
<i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i>	2	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	C	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	1
<i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i>	2	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>	2	<i>Stypandra glauca</i>	2
<i>Eucalyptus gregsoniana</i>	2	<i>Microtis</i> spp.	2	<i>Styphelia triflora</i>	2
<i>Euchiton</i> spp.	C	<i>Mirbelia oxyloboides</i>	2	<i>Swiansona recta</i>	2
<i>Euphrasia collina</i>	2	<i>Mitrasacme polymorpha</i>	2	<i>Tetradthea</i> spp.	2
<i>Fimbristylis dichotoma</i>	2	<i>Mitrasacme serpyllifolia</i>	2	<i>Thelionema</i> spp.	2
<i>Galium gaudichaudii</i>	2	<i>Montia fontana</i>	C	<i>Thelymitra</i> spp.	2
<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	2	<i>Neopaxia australasica</i>	2	<i>Themeda australis</i>	*
<i>Genoplesium</i> spp.	2	<i>Opercularia</i> spp.	2	<i>Thesium australe</i>	2
<i>Geranium antrorsum</i>	2	<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	2	<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	2
<i>Geranium</i> spp. (excluding <i>G. antrorsum</i> )	C	<i>Oreomyrrhis eriopoda</i>	2	<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	2
<i>Glossodia major</i>	2	<i>Oxalis</i> spp.	C	<i>Trachymene humilis</i>	2
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	2	<i>Ozothamnus</i> spp.	C	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	1
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	2	<i>Panicum effusum</i>	C	<i>Triptilodiscus pygmaeus</i>	1
<i>Gompholobium</i> spp.	2	<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	2	<i>Utricularia dichotoma</i>	2
<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i>	2	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	2	<i>Velleia montana</i>	2
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	1	<i>Pentapogon quadrifidus</i>	2	<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	2
<i>Goodenia bellifolia</i>	2	<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>	C	<i>Veronica gracilis</i>	2
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	1	<i>Persoonia chamaecyce</i>	2	<i>Veronica</i> spp.	2
<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	2	<i>Persoonia linearis</i>	2	<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	2
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2	<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	1	<i>Vittadinia</i> spp.	C
<i>Goodenia stelligera</i>	2	<i>Pimelea glauca</i>	2	<i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.	C
<i>Grevillea arenaria</i>	2	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	2	<i>Wilsonia rotundifolia</i>	2
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i>	2	<i>Plantago antarctica</i>	2	<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	2
<i>Grevillea lanigera</i>	2	<i>Plantago euryphylla</i>	2	<i>Xanthorrhoea</i> spp.	2
<i>Grevillea ramosissima</i>	2	<i>Plantago gaudichaudii</i>	2	<i>Xerochrysum</i> spp.	2
<i>Hakea microcarpa</i>	2	<i>Plantago varia</i>	1	<i>Zornia dyctiocarpa</i>	2
<i>Hakea sericea</i>	2	<i>Platylobium formosa</i>	2		
<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>	1	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	*		
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	2	<i>Poa meionectes</i>	C		
<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i>	2	<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	C		
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	2	<i>Podolepis hieracioides</i>	2		
<i>Hemarthria uncinata</i>	2	<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	2		
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	2	<i>Polygala japonica</i>	2		
<i>Hovea linearis</i>	2	<i>Pomax umbellata</i>	2		
<i>Hydrocotyle algida</i>	C	<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	2		
<i>Hydrocotyle calicarpa</i>	2	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	C		
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	1	<i>Prasophyllum</i> spp.	2		
<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>	C	<i>Pratia pedunculata</i>	2		
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	1	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	2		
<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	2	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>			
<i>Hypoxis</i> spp.	2		C		
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	C	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	C		
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	2	<i>Pterostylis</i> spp.	2		
<i>Isoetopsis graminifolia</i>	2	<i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i>	2		
<i>Isolepis</i> spp.	C	<i>Pultenaea</i> spp.	1		
<i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i>	2	<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	2		
<i>Jacksonia scoparia</i>	2	<i>Restio australis</i>	2		
<i>Joycea pallida</i>	C	<i>Rhytidosporum procumbens</i>	2		
<i>Juncus</i> spp.	C	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	2		
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	2	<i>Rulingia prostrata</i>	2		
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	C	<i>Rumex brownii</i>	C		
<i>Kunzea parvifolia</i>	C	<i>Rumex dumosus</i>	C		
<i>Lagenifera stipitata</i>	2	<i>Rumex tenax</i>	C		
<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i>	2	<i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoides</i>	2		
<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i>	2	<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	C		
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	2	<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	2		
<i>Leptorhynchos elongatus</i>	2	<i>Scleranthus diander</i>	2		
<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>	1	<i>Scleranthus fasciculatus</i>	1		
<i>Leptospermum</i> spp.	C	<i>Scutellaria humilis</i>	2		
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i>	2	<i>Sebaea ovata</i>	2		
<i>Leucopogon fletcheri</i>	2	<i>Selliera radicans</i>	2		
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	2	<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>	2		
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	2	<i>Senecio</i> spp. (excluding <i>S. linearifolius</i> )	C		
<i>Levenhookia dubia</i>	2	<i>Solanum linearifolium</i>	2		
<i>Linum marginale</i>	2	<i>Solenogyne dominii</i>	C		
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	1	<i>Solenogyne gunnii</i>	C		
<i>Lomandra bracteata</i>	1	<i>Sorghum leiocladum</i>	2		
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	1	<i>Spiranthes sinensis</i>	2		
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	1	<i>Sporobolus</i> spp.	C		
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	1	<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	2		
<i>Lomatia ilicifolia</i>	2	<i>Stackhousia viminea</i>	2		
<i>Lomatia myricoides</i>	2	<i>Stellaria angustifolia</i>	2		

**Appendix 3. List of species of the North-western Sub-region.**

**C = common or increaser species;**

**I = indicator species level 1;**

**2 = indicator species level 2;**

**\* *Themeda australis* and *Poa labillardierii* need to be treated as indicator species level 2 if they dominate a site (see p. 9 in guidelines).**

**Note that not all species found in grassy ecosystems of the sub-region are on this list. If other species are recorded in your plot, treat them as C species.**

<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	2	<i>Calandrinia</i> sp.	2	<i>Eutaxia diffusa</i>	2
<i>Acacia armata</i> (syn. <i>paradoxa</i> )	2	<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	2	<i>Galium gaudichaudii</i>	2
<i>Acacia dawsonii</i>	2	<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	2	<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	2
<i>Acacia decora</i>	2	<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	2	<i>Genoplesium</i> spp.	2
<i>Acacia doratoxylon</i>	2	<i>Calotis anthemoides</i>	2	<i>Geranium antrorsum</i>	2
<i>Acacia gunnii</i>	2	<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	2	<i>Geranium</i> spp. (excluding <i>G. antrorsum</i> )	C
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	2	<i>Calotis scabiosifolia</i> var. <i>integrifolia</i>	2	<i>Glossodia major</i>	2
<i>Acacia siculiformis</i>	2	<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	2	<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	2
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	2	<i>Cardamine</i> spp.	2	<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	2
<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	2	<i>Carex bichenoviana</i>	2	<i>Gompholobium huegelii</i>	2
<i>Acaena</i> spp.	C	<i>Carex</i> spp. (excluding <i>C. bichenoviana</i> )	C	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	1
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	2	<i>Cassinia</i> spp.	C	<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	2
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	2	<i>Cassytha</i> sp.	C	<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	2
<i>Agrostis</i> spp.	C	<i>Centella</i> spp.	2	<i>Grevillea lanigera</i>	2
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	2	<i>Centipeda cunninghamiana</i>	C	<i>Grevillea ramosissima</i>	2
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>	2	<i>Centipeda minima</i>	C	<i>Grevillea</i> sp. aff. <i>alpina</i>	2
<i>Alternanthera</i> sp.A	C	<i>Centrolepis strigosa</i>	2	<i>Gynatrix pulchella</i>	2
<i>Amphibromus</i> spp.	C	<i>Chamaesyce drummondii</i>	C	<i>Gypsophylla tubulosa</i>	C
<i>Aphanes australiana</i>	C	<i>Cheilanthes</i> spp.	2	<i>Hakea microcarpa</i>	2
<i>Aristida behriana</i>	2	<i>Cheiranthra cyanea</i>	2	<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>	1
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	C	<i>Chenopodium pumilio</i>	C	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	2
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	2	<i>Chloris truncata</i>	C	<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i>	2
<i>Arthropodium minus</i>	2	<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	1	<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	2
<i>Asperula ambleia</i>	2	<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	2	<i>Hemarthria uncinata</i>	2
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	2	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	2	<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	2
<i>Asperula scoparia</i>	2	<i>Comesperma ericinum</i>	2	<i>Hovea linearis</i>	2
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	2	<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	C	<i>Hydrocotyle algida</i>	C
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	2	<i>Cotula australis</i>	C	<i>Hydrocotyle calicarpa</i>	2
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.	C	<i>Craspedia</i> spp.	2	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	2
<i>Austrostipa</i> spp.	C	<i>Crassula</i> spp.	C	<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>	C
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	2	<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	2	<i>Hypericum graminum</i>	2
<i>Blechnum</i> sp.	2	<i>Cullen microcephalum</i>	2	<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	2
<i>Boerharvia dominii</i>	2	<i>Cullen tenax</i>	2	<i>Hypoxis</i> spp.	2
<i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i>	2	<i>Cymbonotus</i> spp.	C	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	C
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	2	<i>Cymbonopogon refractus</i>	2	<i>Indigofera adesmiifolia</i>	2
<i>Bossiaea riparia</i>	2	<i>Cynodon dactylis</i>	C	<i>Indigofera australis</i>	2
<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>	C	<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>	2	<i>Isoetopsis graminifolia</i>	2
<i>Brachycome aculeata</i>	2	<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	C	<i>Isolepis</i> spp.	C
<i>Brachycome diversifolia</i>	2	<i>Cyperus</i> spp.	C	<i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i>	2
<i>Brachycome heterodonta</i>	2	<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	C	<i>Joycea pallida</i>	C
<i>Brachycome ptychocarpa</i>	2	<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i>	2	<i>Juncus</i> spp.	C
<i>Brachycome rigidula</i>	2	<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	2	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	C
<i>Brachycome</i> sp. aff. <i>formosa</i>	2	<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>	2	<i>Kunzea parvifolia</i>	C
<i>Brachycome spathulata</i>	2	<i>Daviesia mimosoides</i>	2	<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i>	2
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	2	<i>Derwentia perfoliata</i>	2	<i>Lepidium ginninderense</i>	2
<i>Brunonia australis</i>	2	<i>Desmodium brachypodium</i>	2	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	2
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	2	<i>Desmodium varians</i>	2	<i>Leptorhynchos elongatus</i>	2
<i>Bulbine glauca</i>	2	<i>Deyeuxia quadriseta</i>	2	<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>	2
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	2	<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	2	<i>Leptospermum</i> spp.	C
<i>Caesia calliantha</i>	2	<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	2	<i>Lespedeza juncea</i>	2
<i>Caladenia</i> spp.	2	<i>Dichelachne</i> spp.	C	<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i>	2
<i>Caladenia</i> spp.	2	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	C	<i>Leucopogon fletcheri</i>	2
		<i>Dichondra sp.A</i>	2	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	2
		<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	2	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	2
		<i>Dichopogon strictus</i>	2	<i>Levenhookia dubia</i>	2
		<i>Digitaria</i> spp.	C	<i>Linum marginale</i>	2
		<i>Dillwynia</i> spp.	2	<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	2
		<i>Dipodium punctatum</i>	2	<i>Lobelia gibbosa</i>	2
		<i>Discaria pubescens</i>	2	<i>Lomandra bracteata</i>	1
		<i>Diuris</i> spp.	2	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	1
		<i>Dodonaea boroniifolia</i>	2	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	2
		<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	2	<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	2
		<i>Drosera peltata</i>	C	<i>Lomatia myricoides</i>	2
		<i>Echinopogon</i> spp.	C	<i>Lotus australis</i>	2
		<i>Einadia hastata</i>	2	<i>Luzula</i> spp.	2
		<i>Einadia nutans</i>	C	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	C
		<i>Elymus scaber</i>	C	<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>	2
		<i>Enneapogon nigricans</i>	C	<i>Mentha diemenica</i>	2
		<i>Epilolium</i> spp.	C	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	C
		<i>Eragrostis</i> spp.	C	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>	2
		<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	2	<i>Microtis</i> spp.	2
		<i>Erodium cernitum</i>	C	<i>Mirbelia oxyloboides</i>	2
		<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>	2	<i>Montia fontana</i>	C
		<i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>	2	<i>Muelenbeckia tuggeranong</i>	2
		<i>Euchiton</i> spp.	C	<i>Neopaxia australasica</i>	2
				<i>Opercularia hispida</i>	2

<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	2	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	2	<i>Sorghum leiocladum</i>	2
<i>Oreomyrrhis eriopoda</i>	2	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>		<i>Spiranthes sinensis</i>	2
<i>Oxalis</i> spp.	C		C	<i>Sporobolus</i> spp.	C
<i>Panicum effusum</i>	C	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	C	<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	2
<i>Paspalum distichum</i>	C	<i>Pterostylis</i> spp.	2	<i>Stellaria pungens</i>	2
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	2	<i>Ptilotis</i> sp.	2	<i>Stuartina</i> spp.	C
<i>Pelargonium</i> spp.	2	<i>Pultenaea</i> spp.	2	<i>Stylidium despectum</i>	2
<i>Pellaea falcata</i>	2	<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	2	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	2
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	2	<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	2	<i>Stypandra glauca</i>	2
<i>Pentapogon quadrifidus</i>	2	<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i>	2	<i>Styphelia triflora</i>	2
<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>	C	<i>Rhytidosporum procumbens</i>	2	<i>Swainsona sericea</i>	2
<i>Persoonia linearis</i>	2	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	2	<i>Swainsona recta</i>	2
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	2	<i>Rumex brownii</i>	C	<i>Tetrateca</i> spp.	2
<i>Pimelea glauca</i>	2	<i>Rumex dumosus</i>	C	<i>Thelymitra</i> spp.	2
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	2	<i>Rutidosis leptorhynchoides</i>	2	<i>Themeda australis</i>	*
<i>Plantago gaudichaudii</i>	2	<i>Rutidosis multiflora</i>	2	<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	2
<i>Plantago varia</i>	2	<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	C	<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	2
<i>Platylobium formosa</i>	2	<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	2	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	2
<i>Pleurosorus rutifolius</i>	2	<i>Scleranthus diander</i>	2	<i>Triptilodiscus pygmaeus</i>	2
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	*	<i>Scleranthus fasciculatus</i>	2	<i>Utricularia dichotoma</i>	2
<i>Poa meionectes</i>	C	<i>Scutellaria humilis</i>	2	<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	2
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	C	<i>Sebaea ovata</i>	2	<i>Veronica</i> spp.	2
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	2	<i>Senecio macrocarpa</i>	2	<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	2
<i>Polygala japonica</i>	2	<i>Senecio</i> spp. (excluding		<i>Vittadinia</i> spp.	C
<i>Pomaderris pallida</i>	2	<i>S. macrocarpa</i> )	C	<i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.	C
<i>Pomax umbellata</i>	2	<i>Sida corrugata</i>	2	<i>Westringia eremicola</i>	2
<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	2	<i>Solanum</i> sp. (spiny leaves)	2	<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	2
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	C	<i>Solanum</i> spp.	2	<i>Xanthorrhoea australis</i>	2
<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i>	2	<i>Solenogyne dominii</i>	C	<i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i>	2
<i>Pratia purpurascens</i>	2	<i>Solenogyne gunnii</i>	C	<i>Zornia dyctiocarpa</i>	2

