EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Gippsland Plain bioregion

EVC 18: Riparian Forest

Description:
A tall forest to 30 m tall along river banks and associated alluvial terraces with occasional occurrences in the heads of gullies leading into creeks and rivers. The soil is fertile alluvium, regularly inundated and permanently moist. Dominated by tall eucalypts but also has an open to sparse secondary tree layer of wattles and scattered dense patches of shrubs, ferns, grasses and herbs.

Large trees:

Species	DBH(cm)	#/ha
Eucalyptus spp.	80 cm	20 / ha

Tree Canopy Cover:

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
40%	*Eucalyptus ovata*	Swamp Gum
	Eucalyptus radiata s.l.	Narrow-leaf Peppermint
	Eucalyptus obliqua	Messmate Stringybark
	Eucalyptus viminalis	Manna Gum

Understorey:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Immature Canopy Tree		5%	IT
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	2	15%	T
Medium Shrub	8	25%	MS
Small Shrub	1	5%	SS
Large Herb	3	5%	LH
Medium Herb	10	10%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	5%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	3	15%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	5%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	4	10%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	3	10%	MNG
Ground Fern	3	15%	GF
Tree Fern	1	1%	TRF
Scrambler or Climber	2	5%	SC
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	20%	BL

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LF Code	Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
T	*Acacia dealbata*	Silver Wattle
T	*Acacia melanoxylon*	Blackwood
MS	*Acacia verticillata*	Prickly Moses
MS	*Goodenia ovata*	Hop Goodenia
MS	*Ozothamnus ferrugineus*	Tree Everlasting
MS	*Leptospermum continentale*	Prickly Tea-tree
LH	*Senecio linearifolius*	Fireweed Groundsel
MH	*Acaena novae-zelandiae*	Bidgee-widgee
MH	*Viola hederacea sensu Willis (1972)*	Ivy-leaf Violet
SH	*Dichondra repens*	Kidney-weed
SH	*Oxalis corniculata s.l.*	Yellow Wood-sorrel
SH	*Galium propinquum*	Maori Bedstraw
SH	*Hydrocotyle hirta*	Hairy Pennywort
LTG	*Gahnia sieberiana*	Red-fruit Saw-sedge
LTG	*Lomandra longifolia*	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
LTG	*Carex appressa*	Tall Sedge
LNG	*Tetrarrhena juncea*	Forest Wire-grass
MTG	*Lepidosperma laterale*	Variable Sword-sedge
MTG	*Dianella tasmanica*	Tasman Flax-lily
MTG	*Poa australis spp. agg.*	Tussock Grass
MNG	*Poa tenera*	Slender Tussock-grass
MNG	*Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides*	Weeping Grass
MNG	*Echinopogon ovatus*	Common Hedgehog-grass
GF	*Pteridium esculentum*	Austral Bracken
GF	*Adiantum aethiopicum*	Common Maidenhair
GF	*Blechnum nudum*	Fishbone Water-fern
GF	*Blechnum minus*	Soft Water-fern
TRF	*Cyathea australis*	Rough Tree-fern
TRF	*Dicksonia antarctica*	Soft Tree-fern
SC	*Clematis aristata*	Mountain Clematis

Recruitment:
Continuous

Organic Litter:
50 % cover

Logs:
30 m/0.1 ha.

Weediness:

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
MS	*Rubus fruticosus spp. agg.*	Blackberry	high	high
LH	*Sonchus oleraceus*	Common Sow-thistle	high	low
LH	*Plantago lanceolata*	Ribwort	high	low
LH	*Cirsium vulgare*	Spear Thistle	high	high
MH	*Hypochoeris radicata*	Cat's Ear	high	low
MH	*Prunella vulgaris*	Self-heal	high	low
LNG	*Holcus lanatus*	Yorkshire Fog	high	high
MTG	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	Sweet Vernal-grass	high	high
SC	*Galium aparine*	Cleavers	high	low

For more information contact: Customer Service Centre, 136 186

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