



New South Wales

THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT 1995 No 101

Notice of Final Determination and Amendment of Schedule 1 to Act

The Scientific Committee established under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* has, in pursuance of Division 3 of Part 2 of that Act, made a final determination to insert the following ecological community in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to that Act (Endangered ecological communities) and, accordingly, that Schedule is amended as set out in Annexure "A" to this Notice:

Sutherland Shire Littoral Rainforest (as described in the final determination of the Scientific Committee to list the ecological community).

The final determination, set out in Annexure "B" to this Notice, to insert this ecological community in Part 3 of Schedule 1 has been made because the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the community is likely to become extinct in nature in New South Wales unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate.

Copies of the final determination may be inspected at:

The Information Centre (Level 1)
National Parks & Wildlife Service
43 Bridge Street
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

and at all District Offices of the National Parks and Wildlife Service during business hours.

Signed at Sydney, this 8th day of December 1998

Dr Chris Dickman
Chairperson
Scientific Committee

Annexure "A"

Schedule 1 to the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* is amended by inserting in Part 3 in alphabetical order the matter:

Sutherland Shire Littoral Rainforest (as described in the final determination of the Scientific Committee to list the ecological community)

Annexure “B”
NSW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Final Determination

The Scientific Committee, established by the Threatened Species Conservation Act, has made a Final Determination to list the Sutherland Shire Littoral Rainforest as an ENDANGERED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY on Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Act. The listing of endangered ecological communities is provided for by Part 2 of the Act.

The Scientific Committee has found that:

1. Littoral rainforest is a closed canopy forest characterised by mesophyll trees, shrubs and vines. It is distinct both structurally and floristically from open sclerophyll forests in the Shire. Floristically the community is characterised by the following assemblage of species:

<i>Acmena smithii</i>	<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>
<i>Cassine australis</i> var. <i>australis</i>	<i>Celtis paniculata</i>
<i>Cissus antarctica</i>	<i>Cissus hypoglauca</i>
<i>Cupaniopsis anarcardoides</i>	<i>Endiandra sieberi</i>
<i>Euroschinus falcata</i>	<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>
<i>Ficus superba</i> var. <i>henneana</i>	<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>
<i>Guioa semiglauca</i>	<i>Legnephora moorei</i>
<i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i>	<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	<i>Polycias elegans</i>
<i>Rapanea howittiana</i>	<i>Sarcomelicope simplicifolia</i>
<i>Schizomeria ovata</i>	<i>Synoum glandulosum</i>
<i>Syzygium oleosum</i>	<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>

2. The list in the above is not a complete list of the flora from all stands, and additional species are found in individual stands but normally in small quantity. All the species listed in 1 above may not be present in every stand, and in very small or badly disturbed stands the number of species may be less than that listed. In stands on hind dunes and in more seaward-exposed localities a maritime element of *Banksia integrifolia* and *Casuarina glauca* may be represented in the canopy.

3. The Community in the Sutherland Shire occurs on soils derived from Hawkesbury Sandstone and on dune sands. Stands are small and isolated from one another. Stands occur on private land, in public open space managed by Council, and in NPWS estate (Royal National Park and Towra Point Nature Reserve). Stands of littoral rainforest are now of limited occurrence in the Sydney region. The Sutherland Shire Littoral Rainforest differs floristically and structurally from that on the northern beaches of Sydney which characteristically contain cabbage tree palm *Livistona australis*. Although the characteristic species of the Sutherland Shire Littoral Rainforest are widespread in littoral rainforests (with the exception of *Syzygium paniculatum*), stands further north tend to show greater species richness.
4. Stands outside NPWS estate have been substantially reduced from their pre-European settlement size, and the integrity of all stands is threatened by weed invasion. Serious weed invasion has occurred in many stands.
5. Disturbance in some stands has led to openings in the canopy, promoting damaging wind shear, salt spray damage and desiccation. In some locations the vegetation has been largely removed to provide open space, leaving a grassy ground layer with no understorey and only isolated trees.
6. Other threats include dumping of rubbish and garden refuse and vandalism.
7. Development adjacent to littoral rainforest stands, including creation of bushfire protection zones, may create an exposed edge for weed invasion, fire damage and wind damage.
8. In view of 4, 5, 6, and 7 above the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the Sutherland Shire Littoral Rainforest is likely to become extinct in nature in New South Wales unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate and hence meets the criteria for listing as an Endangered Ecological Community.

Dr Chris Dickman
Chairperson
Scientific Committee