

# Threatened Ecological Communities: Western Australia



**Aquatic Root Mat Communities Caves of the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge:** Nestled within the caves of the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge, this community is characterized by dense aquatic root mats. These submerged vegetative structures harbor various aquatic invertebrates and are essential for maintaining the cave ecosystem's health. These caves also serve as essential groundwater reservoirs.

**Thrombolite Community of Coastal Freshwater Lakes (Lake Richmond):** At Lake Richmond, you'll find thrombolites, ancient microbial structures resembling rocks. These structures are formed by microbes, especially cyanobacteria, and they play a pivotal role in oxygenating the water, thus supporting diverse aquatic life.

**Eastern Stirling Range Montane Heath and Thicket:** This ecological community located in the Stirling Range showcases a blend of dense heath and thicket vegetation. Adapted to frequent fires, plants like Banksia and Grevillea dominate, supporting diverse fauna, including rare bird species and small mammals.

**Perched Wetlands of the Wheatbelt region (Toolibin Lake):** The Toolibin Lake stands out for its perched wetlands, where extensive sheoak and paperbark trees stretch across the lake floor. These wetlands are crucial habitats for migratory birds and native aquatic species.

**Plants and Invertebrates of Tumulus Springs of the Swan Coastal Plain:** These organic mound springs, also known as tumulus springs, are teeming with unique plants and invertebrate assemblages. The springs are crucial for groundwater discharge in the region.

**Corymbia calophylla Woodlands:** Found on the heavy soils of the Swan Coastal Plain, this woodland community features the dominant Marri tree (*Corymbia calophylla*) and the grass-trees *Kingia australis* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii*. This multi-layered woodland supports a wide range of mammals and birds including black cockatoos and Western pygmy possums.



**Sedgeland in Holocene Dune Swales of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain:** Dominated by sedges, these swales are formed in the spaces between dunes. They play a crucial role in water filtration and support a range of amphibians and waterbirds.

**Shrublands and Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain:** This broad community features a mosaic of shrubs and trees, providing habitat for various birds, reptiles, and mammals. Periodic fires shape the composition and structure of these woodlands.

**Thrombolite Community of Lake Clifton:** Similar to Lake Richmond, Lake Clifton is renowned for its thrombolites. These microbialites form unique patterns and structures in the brackish waters, supporting a diverse set of aquatic organisms.

**Claypans of the Swan Coastal Plain:** These shallow, temporary wetlands fill up during rains and quickly evaporate. During their brief existence, they become hotspots of biodiversity, supporting various ephemeral plants and invertebrates.



**Monsoon Vine Thickets on the Coastal Sand Dunes of Dampier Peninsula:** As the name suggests, these thickets thrive during the monsoon. Twisting vines and dense shrubbery form a lush green blanket over the coastal dunes, providing shelter and food for various bird species and small mammals.