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| Protected plant communities on Dja Dja Wurrung Country |

As the main page on Plants and Forest Produce explains, certain species of native plants are protected when they are part of a listed community of plants. Within the Dja Dja Wurrung Country, the listed communities are:

* Creekline Grassy Woodland (Goldfields)
* Grey Box – Buloke Grassy Woodland
* Northern Plains Grassland
* Red Gum Swamp No,1
* Semi-arid Shrubby Pine – Buloke Woodland
* Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland
* Western Basalt Plains (River Red Gum) Grassy Woodland

Refer to the map <link to PDF of Protected communities of plants in Dja Dja Wurrung Country to see where these listed plant communities are found within Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

If you want to take plants that are listed in the tables on the main Plants and Forests page, and you are:

* In a State Forest and in a listed community, the limits on quantities apply
* In a State Forest and not in a listed community, no limits apply

If you are

* On other public land and in a listed community, the limits on quantities apply
* On other public land and not in a listed community, no native plants can be taken (you need a permit under the Planning Scheme to clear native vegetation)

Descriptions of the protected plant communities

These descriptions are based on those provided by the Scientific Advisory Committee established under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and is based on the attributes used to define those communities when they were added to the Threatened List.

Creekline Grassy Woodland (Goldfields) Community

The Creekline Grassy Woodland (Goldfields) Community occurs in small patches throughout the Agreement Area. It is found along the edges of shallow or seasonal waterways on the lower slopes of the box-ironbark forests. This community is different to the vegetation that grows along the permanent waterways further out onto the plains.

River Red Gums are the tallest and most common trees in this community. Yellow Box and Grey Box might also be present, but not always. A mixture of shrubs are spread throughout the community. These shrubs are likely to be Wirilda, Black Wattle and Rough-barked Honey Myrtle.

The ground layer has a dense cover of grasses, sedges and rushes. Common ground layer species include: Weeping Grass, Common Tussock-grass, Kangaroo Grass and Tall Sedge.

Grey Box - Buloke Grassy Woodland Community

The Grey Box – Buloke Grassy Woodland Community is mostly spread throughout the Southern half of the Agreement Area, to the South of Bendigo and Dunolly. Some small patches are also found in the Northern parts near Boort and Charlton.

Grey Box is usually the tallest tree in this community with smaller Buloke growing below the canopy.

However in places where there has been no fire for a long time, Buloke may be taller than Grey Box.

Shrubs are rare in this community, but some shrubs may be scattered underneath the taller trees. The most common shrubs in this community are Drooping Cassinia, also known as ‘Chinese Scrub’, and Wattles

such as Deane’s Wattle, Gold-dust Wattle and Golden Wattle.

The ground layer in this community is mostly covered in a mixture of grasses such as Wallaby Grass, Windmill Grass and sometimes Kangaroo Grass.

Northern Plains Grassland Community

The Northern Plains Grassland is widely found across the flat treeless plains in the Northern half of the Agreement Area, North of Maryborough. Most of it is found between Bendigo and Boort.

The community is mostly made up of tussocks of Wallaby Grasses and native Spear Grasses. Some small shrubs may be scattered across the plains, but always. A mixture of wildflowers such and ground covers grow in the small spaces between grass tussocks. Native daises and small saltbushes are the most common types of plants that grow in these spaces.

Red Gum Swamp Community No. 1

This community is found in small patches in the North-Western corner of the Agreement Area between St Arnaud, Charlton and Donald.

The main features of this community are River Red Gum trees and standing flood water up to 40cm deep

that can remain for up to four months at a time. Shrubs are not likely to be found in this community.

The ground level vegetation in this community depends on how often it floods. In wetter places, the most common understorey plants are sedges and rushes. Other herbs such as Raspworts, Goodenia will also be found in these wetter sites. At drier sites, the vegetation is less dense and the ground layer is mostly made up of Wallaby Grass, Blue Devils and Sedges. Other common ground level species in the drier

examples of this community are Common Sneezeweed, Lemon Beauty-heads and Scaly Buttons.

Semi-arid North-West Plains Buloke Grassy Woodland

The Semi-arid North-West Plains Buloke Grassy Woodland community is mostly found on the plains in

the North-Western part of the Agreement Area, North of St Arnaud and West of Wedderburn.

Buloke is the dominant tree in this community. Black Box and Yellow Gum may sometimes be present, but not always.

The most common shrub in this community is Gold-dust Wattle. Smaller saltbushes and a few varieties of New Holland Daises are also likely to be scattered throughout the understorey. The ground layer is dominated by Wallaby and Spear Grasses, with some Scented Mat-rush.

Semi-arid Shrubby Pine-Buloke Woodland Community

This community is found in small patches across the North-Western corner of the Agreement Area, between Donald, Wedderburn and Boort. It is mostly found on flat land or gentle slopes.

The key feature of this community is the mixture of Slender Cypress-Pine and Buloke that makes up the canopy. Underneath this open canopy layer is a wide variety of shrubs. The most common shrubs found in this community are Ruby Saltbush, Hedge Saltbush, Hop-bush, Weeping Pittosporum, Pimelea Daisy-bush and Cattlebush.

The ground layer is mostly made up of small herbs, with some larger species such as New Holland Daisy and Nodding Saltbush. Some grasses may also be found in the ground layer, but are not a defining feature of this community.

Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community

This community is restricted to a small pocket in the Southern part of the Agreement Area between Lexton and Creswick. It is spread on the heavy clay soils of the basalt plains that are usually waterlogged in winter and become very dry and hard during summer.

This community is dominated by a dense cover of native grasses, with very few trees and shrubs. The only trees or shrubs are found on the edges of small seasonal waterways and wetlands that follow the slight

undulations in the ground. The most common grass species in this community is Kangaroo Grass; with Wallaby Grass, Spear Grass and Tussock Grass making up a smaller amount of the cover.

The spaces in between the large grass tussocks will have a wide variety of groundcovers and wildflowers such as Blue Devils, Common Onion Orchids, Pale Sundew, Sheep’s Burr, Pink Bindweed and Scaly Buttons.

Western Basalt Plains (River Red Gum) Grassy Woodland

This community is spread across the Southern Half of the Agreement Area, covering the flat plains in the area between Daylesford, Maldon and reaching almost to St Arnaud in the West.

The community is clearly recognised by its canopy of widely spaced River Red Gums with shrubs such as Golden Wattle, Hedge Wattle and Tree Violet scattered underneath.

The ground layer of this community is dominated by native Tussock Grasses, Wallaby Grass and Kangaroo Grass. A range of small groundcovers and wildflowers will be growing in the spaces between the grass tussocks.

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Web links and more Information

Full details of each listed community, including notes on how to identify it, can be found on DELWPs website

Listed communities

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/threatened-species-and-communities/flora-and-fauna-guarantee-act-1988/scientific-advisory-committee/victorian-threatened-community-descriptions>

Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement (2013)

<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/your+rights/native+title/dja+dja+wurrung+settlement+commences>

Authorisation Orders

http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2014/GG2014S354.pdf

Map of Settlement Area

<http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au/maps>

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Contact Details

<http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au/contact-us>

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