

Appendix I: EVC Descriptions

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) are the standard unit for classifying vegetation types in Victoria. EVCs are described through a combination of floristics, lifeforms and ecological characteristics, and through an inferred fidelity to particular environmental attributes. Each EVC includes a collection of floristic communities (i.e. lower level in the classification) that occur across a biogeographic range, and although differing in species, have similar habitat and ecological processes operating.

GRASSY WOODLAND (EVC 175)

A variable open eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall over a diverse ground layer of grasses and herbs. The shrub component is usually sparse. It occurs on sites with moderate fertility on gentle slopes or undulating hills on a range of geologies.

CREEKLINE GRASSY WOODLAND (EVC 68)

Eucalypt-dominated woodland to 15 m tall with occasional scattered shrub layer over a mostly grassy/sedgy to herbaceous ground-layer. Occurs on low-gradient ephemeral to intermittent drainage lines, typically on fertile colluvial/alluvial soils, on a wide range of suitably fertile geological substrates. These minor drainage lines can include a range of graminoid and herbaceous species tolerant of waterlogged soils, and are presumed to have sometimes resembled a linear wetland or system of interconnected small ponds.

PLAINS GRASSY WOODLAND (EVC 55)

An open, eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall occurring on a number of geologies and soil types. Occupies poorly drained, fertile soils on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understorey consists of a few sparse shrubs over a species-rich grassy and herbaceous ground layer.

SWAMPY RIPARIAN WOODLAND (EVC 83)

Woodland to 15 m tall generally occupying low energy streams of the foothills and plains. The lower strata are variously locally dominated by a range of large and medium shrub species on the stream levees in combination with large tussock grasses and sedges in the ground layer.

SWAMP SCRUB (EVC 53)

Closed scrub to 8 m tall at low elevations on alluvial deposits along streams or on poorly drained sites with high nutrient and water availability. Soils vary from organic loams to fine silts and peats which are inundated during the wetter months of the year and is dominated by either Woolly Tea-tree *Leptospermum lanigerum* and/or Paperbarks *Melaleuca* species which often form a dense impenetrable thicket, out-competing other species. Emergent trees (e.g. Swamp Gum *Eucalyptus ovata*) may some times be present. Where light penetrates to ground level, a moss/lichen/liverwort herbaceous ground cover is often present.

PLAINS GRASSY WETLAND (EVC 125)

This EVC is usually treeless, but in some instances can include sparse River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* or Swamp Gum *Eucalyptus ovata*. A sparse shrub component may also be present. The characteristic ground cover is dominated by grasses and small sedges and herbs. The vegetation is typically species-rich on the outer verges but is usually species-poor in the wetter central areas.

Source: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/>