

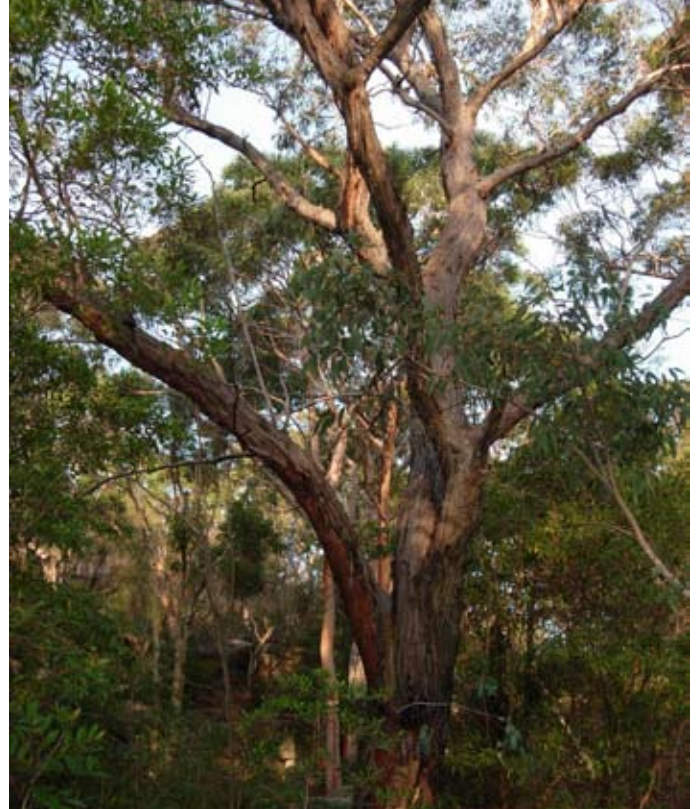
Duffys Forest

Classification:

Duffys Forest Endangered Ecological Community

Conservation Status in NSW:

Endangered



SPECIAL NOTE: Only 16 per cent of the estimated original Duffys Forest Vegetation Community remains today.

Description:

Duffys Forest is typically an open-forest or a woodland that occurs on restricted specific soil types in the Warringah suburbs of Frenchs Forest, Duffys Forest, Terry Hills, Belrose, Beacon Hill and Allambie Heights.

It is likely to have the following canopy tree species: *Angophora costata*, *Corymbia gummifera*, *Eucalyptus capitellata*, *E. haemastoma* and *E. sieberi*. Duffys Forest also contains many species of understory plants including species protected in their own right by the TSC Act 1995. These include *Grevillea caleyi*, *Persoonia hirsuta*, *Epacris purpurascens*, *Pimelea curviflora* var. *curviflora* and *Tetratheca grandulosa*.

Habitat:

Duffys Forest is found on shale lenses and lateritic soils in Hawkesbury sandstone. The lateritic soil type is recognisable by its deep reddish brown colour. These soils and the associated Duffys Forest vegetation communities are usually found on ridgetops and plateaus. It also occurs on upper and middle slopes or on "benches" below Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland.

Threats:

Only 16 per cent of the estimated original Duffys Forest Vegetation Community remains. Forty per cent of this remaining community is in average to poor condition.

The main threats are land clearing, fragmentation, weed invasion, inappropriate fire regimes, and physical disturbance. Physical disturbance is causing fragmentation of the community as well as erosion and destruction. The disturbance is mainly from tracks and clearings caused by people, horses, vehicles and rubbish dumping.

(Smith & Smith, 2000)

Community Action:

Warringah residents can protect the remaining areas of Duffys Forest Vegetation Community by understanding the main threats to it and how they can be avoided. Residents can assist by having a "bush friendly" garden which requires no additional fertilisers or heavy watering. Residents may also like to join a volunteer bush regeneration group, such as Warringah's Friends of the Bush. Residents are asked to stay on existing tracks to avoid any physical damage to the surrounding bush in reserves and to notify council of any new disturbances such as rubbish dumping and clearing.