

remnant bushland

Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub

Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) is known as an ecological community, as it is a group of species in a particular area. It mostly includes various banksias, heath-type shrubs, grasses and sedges. ESBS is typically found on older, deep sandy soils in the eastern suburbs of Sydney and south to Botany Bay. The Wallum banksia (*Banksia aemula*) is a species often found in ESBS. Not all remnants contain all the ESBS species. Prior to European contact, much of the eastern Sydney peninsula was vegetated with ESBS. Less than one percent of the original ESBS survives today in isolated remnants. Many ESBS species are threatened by shading and competition from taller native species, introduced trees and weeds. Other threats include: increased nutrient levels; changes in moisture; and inappropriate fire regimes. Natural regeneration of seedlings can be hampered by grazing (rabbits), rubbish dumping, trampling and erosion. Four sites in Centennial Parklands have been identified as ESBS remnants: the York Road Bushland, the Bird Sanctuary, an area near Kensington Pond and a small area on a dune near the Randwick Gates. All these sites have been modified over time by the introduction of trees and grasses.

York Road Bushland

The York Road Bushland contains regrowth vegetation, recognised as ESBS, amongst introduced pine trees and weeds. Aerial photographs show that the York Road block was cleared in the 1930s and the existing bushland has regrown over the decades. Only one portion of the vacant area on the York Road corner block belongs to Centennial Parklands. Lot 23 of this block was granted to Centennial Parklands in 1998 and is known as the York Road Bushland.

Bird Sanctuary

Remnant ESBS is also found in the Bird Sanctuary, located behind the Centennial Parklands Café. This area was fenced in 1938 and set aside by the Gould League as a sanctuary for native birds. It is known that many of the trees such as hoop pines, sweet pittosporum and gums planted in the Bird Sanctuary were introduced to attract birds.

Protection of ESBS

ESBS has been formally listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under State and Commonwealth legislation. Site specific management plans and special licences are required for activities in ESBS remnants, including weeding, seed collecting and regeneration works.

Expert advice

A Bushland Management Group provides advice on vegetation management for Centennial Parklands remnants. The group includes local council Bushcare officers, local and Indigenous community representatives, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage, bush regeneration experts and ecologists. The group also includes Centennial Parklands staff with expertise in education and interpretation, protected area management, fauna management and horticulture.

On-site conservation

Vegetation Management Plans for these areas are completed. These plans outline the actions that need to be taken to protect, rehabilitate and manage these important ESBS remnants. Centennial Parklands volunteers are involved in supervised tasks as part of the rehabilitation of these bushland areas.

References

J. Howell & D. Benson (2000) Sydney's Bushland – More than meets the eye; NSW Scientific Committee (2002) Determination Advice Number 02/17; and Centennial Parklands acknowledges the support of Moriah College in the development of the York Road Bushland Vegetation Management Plan.



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