

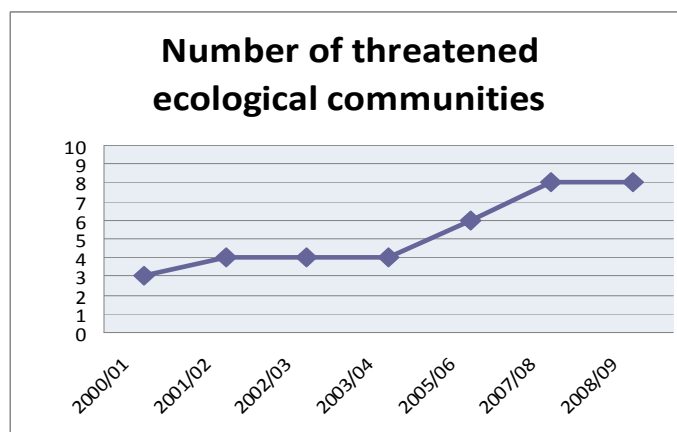
Biodiversity

What are we monitoring?

The number of threatened ecological communities in the Blue Mountains

What is the trend?

There are eight threatened ecological communities in the Blue Mountains in 2009. Whilst this is an increase in the number of communities identified since 2001 (three threatened ecological communities), this increase may reflect improved monitoring of threatened ecological communities.



Year	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2005/06	2007/08	2008/09
Number of threatened ecological communities	3	4	4	4	6	8	8

THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS		
Species	Date gazetted	Status
Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest	2000	Endangered
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest	1998	Endangered
Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest	1998	Critically Endangered
Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Forest	2001	Endangered
River-flat Eucalypt Forest	2004	Endangered
Newnes Shrub Swamp	2005	Endangered
Blue Mountains Swamps	2007	Vulnerable
Montane Peatlands and Swamps.	2004	Endangered

An ecological community is a group of species that occur together in a particular area. For example there will be a particular group of plants and animals that live in a wet swampy location or within a particular type of forest. The Blue Mountains contains a large number of distinct ecological communities – we are monitoring the number of these communities that are under threat, as determined by the NSW Scientific Committee.

Why is monitoring this trend important?

Ecological communities are specialised habitats for diverse species – where the survival of animals and plants depends on the interactions between the various species within the community. Threatened species can also be found within ecological communities; protecting the community also protects that species. For example the Blue Mountains water skink is found only in upland swamps of the Blue Mountains. Identifying and monitoring threatened ecological communities provides a means of protecting these habitats and the species within them.

Source: NSW Scientific Committee – Final determination

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/committee/FinalDeterminations.htm>

Blue Mountains City Council, State of Environment Reports - City of Blue Mountains

www.sustainablebluemountains.net.au/resources/publications/