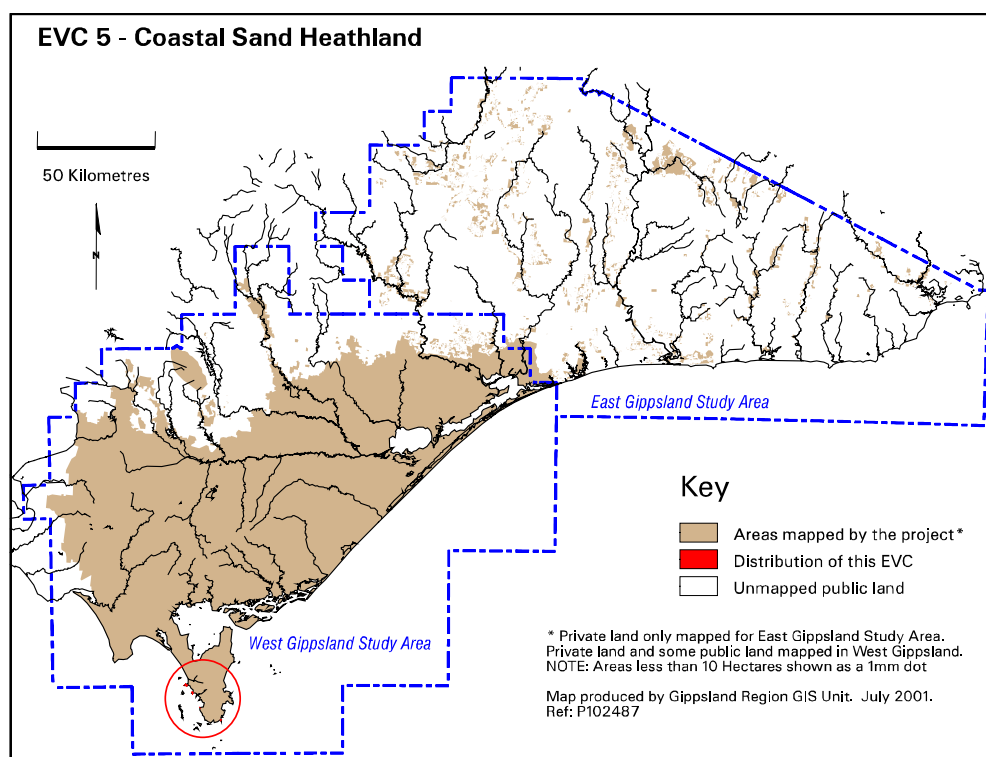


EVC 5 Coastal Sand Heathland

Uncommon in Gippsland, occurring only in the most exposed coastal south to south-west facing headlands at Wilsons Promontory. An open or closed heath often wind-pruned to less than 1m in height due to extreme exposure to wind and salt-spray.

Elevation (metres above sea level)	<40
Average rainfall p.a. (mm)	<1000
Topography	Exposed south and south-west facing coastal headlands
Geology	Devonian granite
Soils	Variable: skeletal, gravelly or sandy
Related/adjacent EVCs/FCs	<i>South Gippsland Coastal Headland Scrub</i> (less extreme exposure), <i>Spray-zone Coastal Shrubland</i> (more extreme exposure)
Present land use	Nature conservation, recreation
Present distribution	Exposed coastal headlands at Wilsons Promontory National Park
Examples of sites/quadrats/lists	Lighthouse, South East Point (F48764) and Tongue Point (U23690), Wilsons Promontory National Park:
Total Area (ha)/ Number of polygons	23/7
Group analysis no.	Not identified by 40 group analysis. Description based on above sites only



Vegetation: structure/floristics:

Structure is mostly an open or closed heath often less than 1m in height. Common shrubs are Sea Box *Alyxia buxifolia*, Coast Ballart *Exocarpos syrticola*, White Correa *Correa alba*, Dusty Miller *Spyridium parvifolium*, White Kunzea *Kunzea ambigua*, Coast Tea-tree *Leptospermum laevigatum*, Common Correa *Correa reflexa*, Prickly Moses *Acacia verticillata*, the vulnerable epacrid, Crimson Berry *Cyathodes juniperina*, Paper-flower *Thomasia petalocalyx*, Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata*, and Large-leaf Bush-pea *Pultenaea daphnoides*. Herbs present include White Everlasting *Chrysocephalum baxteri* and Bristly Wallaby-grass *Austrodanthonia setacea*.

Comments:

Only occurs on some of the most exposed coastal headlands where wind-stripped vegetation patterns are typically evident. Parsons and Gill (1968) have demonstrated that salt spray is a major factor determining the occurrence and growth of plants in exposed coastal areas by causing death of shoots and leaves from chloride toxicity.