

Vegetation survey of area around main inlet drain south of Lake McLarty, WA

Aim of survey

The aim of this short vegetation survey was to determine whether there are any significant or priority plant species present in the area around the main inlet drain on the southern end of Lake McLarty in WA. In addition, any noteworthy weed (non-native) plant species were also recorded.

Study site

The area of interest was accessed by a gate on the southern end of the lake from Mills road. The area around the inlet drain was searched and photos with GPS coordinates were recorded for any noteworthy plants (Figure 1).

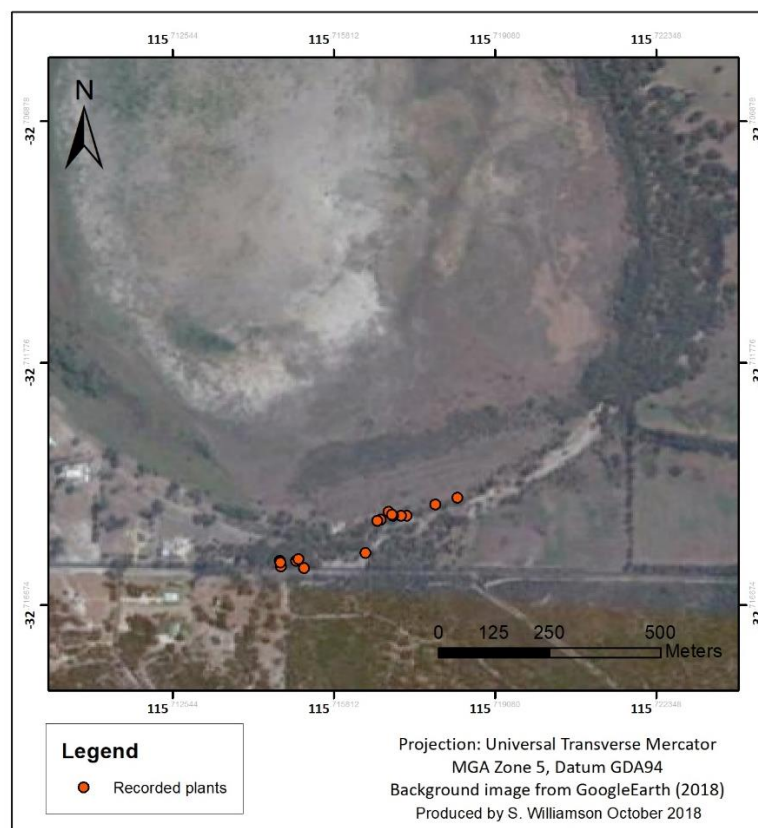


Figure 1: Satellite image of the southern part of Lake McLarty showing the locality of recorded plants

Native plants

Four orchid species i.e. *Caladenia flava* (Cowslip orchid), *Caladenia latifolia* (Pink fairy orchid), *Caladenia paludosa* (Swamp spider orchid) and *Microtis media* (Tall mignonette orchid) were found in the area of interest (Figure 2). Each of these species were represented by healthy populations.

Even though the individual flowers of *C. paludosa* were quite variable, it was determined that they are all the same species. Some flowers were slightly similar to those of *C. arenicola* (Carousel spider orchid).

Cygnopteron lineare (Juncaginaceae) was seen growing in quite dense stands in the water along the edges of the canals.

Weeds

A number of weed species were seen growing in and around the inlet drain in this area. The Cape weed (*Arctotheca calendula*), a species of Veldt grass (*Ehrharta sp.*) are quite prolific in and around this whole area. The non-native orchid *Disa bracteata* has been noted here previously but was not seen during this survey. A few plants of a Dock species (presumably *Rumex crispus*) were seen and recorded growing in the drain.

A large stand of bulrushes (*Typha sp.*) were seen at the southern edge of the lake near the inlet drain and under a very large Eucalyptus tree there was a large dense clump of Buffalo grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*).



Figure 2: Images of *C. latifolia* (a), *C. flava* (b), *C. paludosa* (c) and *M. media* (d) seen at Lake McLarty