

Appendix 7 South Australian Vegetation Structural Formations

Life Form/Height Class	Projective Foliage Cover of Tallest Stratum			
	Dense (70-100%)	Mid-dense (30-70%)	Sparse (10-30%)	Very sparse (<10%)
Trees > 30m	Tall closed forest	Tall open forest	Tall woodland	Tall open woodland
Trees 10-30m	Closed forest	Open forest	Woodland	Open woodland
Trees 5-10m	Low closed forest	Low open forest	Low woodland	Low open woodland
Trees <5m	Very low closed forest	Very low open forest	Very low woodland	Very low open woodland
Mallee (>3m)	Closed mallee	Mallee	Open mallee	Very open mallee
Low Mallee (<3m)	Closed low mallee	Low mallee	Open low mallee	Very open low mallee
Shrubs > 2m	Tall closed shrubland	Tall shrubland	Tall open shrubland	Tall very open shrubland
Shrubs 1-2m	Closed shrubland	Shrubland	Open shrubland	Very open shrubland
Shrubs < 1m	Low closed shrubland	Low shrubland	Low open shrubland	Low very open shrubland
Mat plants	Closed mat plants	Mat plants	Open mat plants	Very open mat plants
Hummock grasses	Closed Hummock grassland	Hummock grassland	Open hummock grassland	Very open hummock grassland
Tussock grasses	Closed (tussock) grassland	(Tussock) grassland	Open (tussock) grassland	Very open (tussock) grassland
Sedges	Closed sedgeland	Sedgeland	Open sedgeland	Very open sedgeland
Herbs	Closed herbland	Herbland	Open herbland	Very open herbland
Ferns	Closed fernland	Fernland	Open fernland	Very open fernland

Note: Table originally derived from Specht (1972), Muir (1977) and Forward & Robinson (1996).

Trees - woody; perennial; erect; canopy raised well above the ground. Depth of canopy is usually less than or equal to two thirds of the total tree height. Single stemmed, or if multi-stemmed, fewer than five individual trunks resulting from branching of a single short trunk, that is not a mallee-like lignotuber. Height usually >2m.

Mallees - genus *Eucalyptus*; multi-stemmed, trunks arising from lignotuber. Low mallee - < 3m. Mallee - > 3m

Shrubs- woody; perennial; erect, procumbent or weeping; foliage occupies all or part of total plant height; multiple stems and branches arising from a rootstock or very short common trunk; generally <5m tall.

Mat Plants - Herbaceous or woody plants of prostrate habit, with major stems growing along the ground. Rarely exceeds 10 cm in height. Examples of mat plants are *Kunzea pomifera*, *Myoporum parvifolium*, *Carpobrotus rossii* and *Mimulus repens*.

Hummock Grass - Genera *Triodia* or *Plectrachne* only.

Grasses (tussock) - family Poaceae (Gramineae); leaf sheath always split.

Sedges - herbaceous, usually perennial, erect, generally tufted; arise from stolons, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes or seeds. Leaf sheath never split. Includes Cyperaceae, Juncaceae, Restionaceae, Typhaceae and Xyridaceae and other sedge-like forms.

Herbs - herbaceous or slightly woody; annual or sometimes perennial; erect or creepers; rarely exceeds 0.5m height.

Ferns - Ferns and fern allies, ie. non-vascular cryptogams of classes Filicopsida and Lycopsidea. This category includes *Ophioglossum* spp., *Lycopodium* spp., *Selaginella* spp. and *Isoetes* spp.

Source: Heard and Channon (1997)