

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

EUCALYPTUS BROOKERIANA WET FOREST

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 16 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest?

Forest dominated by *Eucalyptus brookeriana* (brookers gum) is classified as *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest. Sub-dominant canopy trees include *E. obliqua* (stringybark), *E. regnans* (giant ash), *E. delegatensis* (gumtopped stringybark), *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood) or rainforest trees. On King Island, where *E. brookeriana** co-dominates or is sub-dominant to *E. globulus*, it is considered part of the listed community **18**. *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest.

The often dense shrub layer is typically composed of *Pomaderris apetala* (common dogwood), *Bedfordia salicina* (tasmanian blanketleaf) and *Olearia argophylla* (musk daisybush). The ground layer is generally of low diversity, often dominated by *Dicksonia antarctica* (soft treefern) and *Gahnia grandis* (cutting grass).

The community's stronghold is in the north-west of Tasmania where it is often found on well-draining, rocky soils of dolerite slopes and ridges and on alluvial deposits adjacent to streams. In the north-west, *E. brookeriana* wet forest occurs near *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood) swamps on flats (where it rarely exceeds 40 m in height). In the east and north-east, where it favours gullies and is often associated with *E. delegatensis* or *E. obliqua*, the community can reach 60 m.

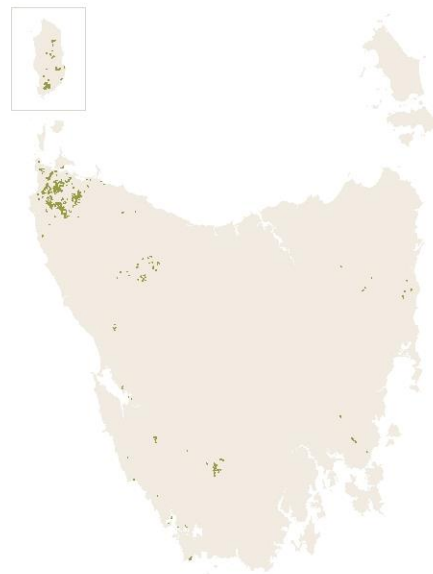
To help you decide if this Threatened Native Vegetation Community is on your site, a decision tree is provided further below. This is a guide only. Assessment by a qualified ecologist is needed to confirm the presence (or absence) of a listed threatened community.

*There is debate surrounding the taxonomy of *Eucalyptus brookeriana* and *E. ovata* on King Island (Barnes et al. 2002) and more generally in the north-west of Tasmania.



An example of the *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest community at Edith Creek. Stephen Harris

Distribution, extent and reservation status



Indicative *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest distribution from TNVC 2014

Barnes RW, Duncan F, and Todd CS (2002). The Native Vegetation of King Island, Bass Strait. Nature Conservation Report 02/6. Nature Conservation Branch, Resource Management and Conservation, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2014 (TNVC 2014) distribution of *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest is derived from the TASVEG 3.0 mapping of WBR (*Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Eucalyptus brookeriana wet forest has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 7 400 hectares. Of this, 27% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System increasing to 39% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest for Local Government Regions is available on the Department of Primary Industry, Parks Water and Environment [website](#) and via the 'By Council Area' tab at this [link](#).

Why is *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest important and what are its management issues?

This threatened community has its core distribution within the King Bioregion where it is under-reserved.

The average patch size identified in TNVC 2014 is 13 ha, although 72% of patches are smaller than 10 ha in area with the majority of these between 1 and 5 ha.

While a fire every few hundred years is needed to enable regeneration of eucalypts, too frequent fires will impact *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest. Land clearing or heavy grazing pose major threats to this community through loss and degradation of patches. Other disturbances that open up the understorey (such as logging) can increase the chances of invasion by weeds such as *Rubus fruticosus* (blackberry).

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition of *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ WBR *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest

What does it mean if you have a Threatened Native Vegetation Community?

If you are planning an activity that will potentially impact a Threatened Native Vegetation Community you should seek advice from the authority responsible for regulating this activity. The authority responsible will depend upon the nature of the planned activity (see [Further information](#)).

In the first instance you can check the [Information for landowners on the Forest Practices Authority \(FPA\) website](#) for comprehensive advice on when a Forest Practices Plan may be required.

Some vegetation communities can represent important habitat for threatened species. This may have implications when development applications are assessed or for land use.

Matters of National Environmental Significance as listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBCA) should also be considered to determine if the proposal will need to be assessed under that Act.

Further information

For further detail about the possible variation within *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest refer to the relevant sections within the description of the TASVEG mapping unit WBR within the 'Wet eucalypt forest and woodland' section of the online publication [From Forest to Fjaeldmark \(Edition 2\)](#) and to the Forest Practices Authority's [Forest Botany Manual](#) keys to the floristic communities equivalent to RFA BA.

Further information to assist developers and their representatives in assessing the impacts of proposed developments on natural values is provided in DPIPWE's [Guidelines for Natural Values Surveys – Terrestrial Development Proposals](#) and the [Threatened Species Link - Activity Advice](#).

Contact details

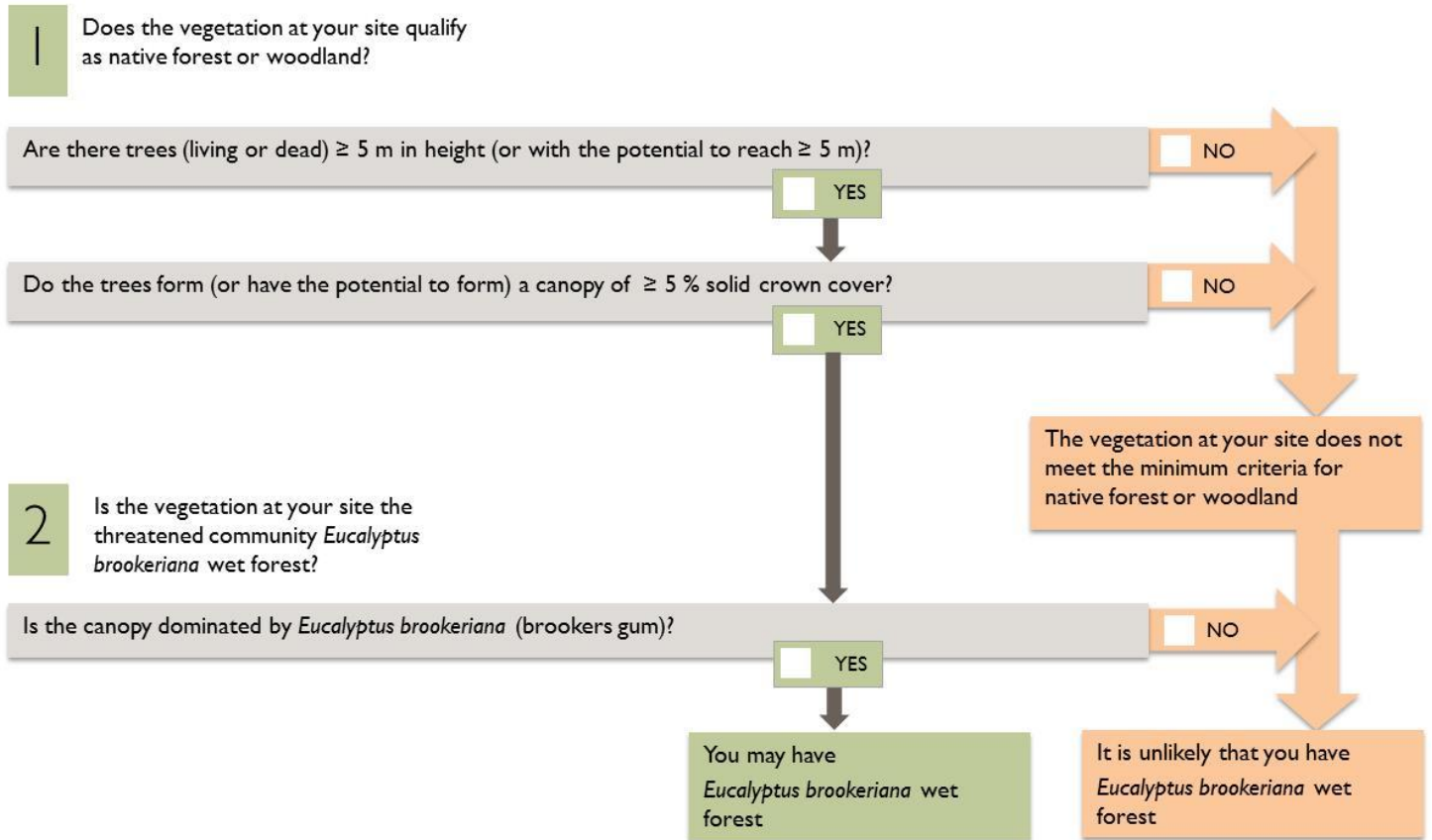
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Is *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest present at your site?



Note:

- ❖ There is debate surrounding the taxonomy of *Eucalyptus brookeriana* and *E. ovata* on King Island. While this document recognises *Eucalyptus brookeriana* and *E. ovata* on King Island as separate species, further analysis may see vegetation on King Island currently included within **20** *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland reclassified as **16** *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest.