

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

ATHROTAXIS CUPRESSOIDES / NOTHOFAGUS GUNNII SHORT RAINFOREST

Conservation status

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

What is *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest?

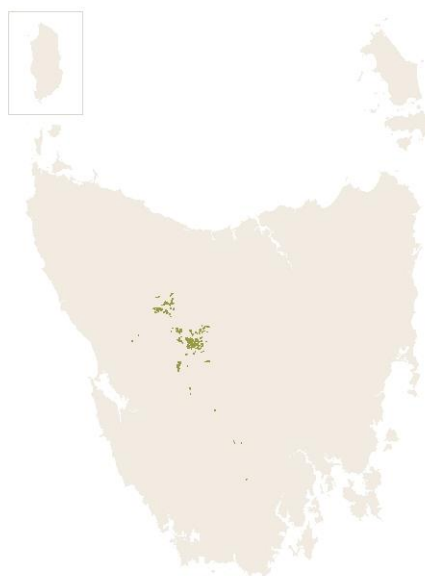
This is dense closed montane short forest and scrub in which *Athrotaxis cupressoides* (pencil pine) is dominant above a tangle of *Nothofagus gunnii* (deciduous beech). The community may consist predominantly of these two species or be more diverse, with *Diselma archeri* (dwarf pine) and various species of *Richea* (candleheath) and other shrubs present. The canopy is usually between 8-15 m in height, but emergent *Athrotaxis cupressoides* can reach up to 20 m. The community mainly occurs on fire-protected sites between 750 and 1400 m above sea level, generally on dolerite. It is distinguished from other vegetation dominated by *A. cupressoides* by the abundance of *Nothofagus gunnii*, which dominates the understorey and/or is present in the canopy. Where patches of *A. cupressoides* occur within stands of tall *N. gunnii* overtopped by *Athrotaxis selaginoides* (king billy pine) on the West Coast Range, they are included within 6 *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest.



An example of the *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest community Mount Field National Park. Keith Corbett.

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.

Distribution, extent and reservation status



Indicative *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest distribution from TNVC 2014

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2014 (TNVC 2014) distribution of *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest is derived from the TASVEG 3.0 mapping of RPF (*Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Athrotaxis cupressoides / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 4500 hectares. Of this, 100% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System.

Athrotaxis cupressoides / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* 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 *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest important and what are its management issues?

The community has a restricted distribution with its stronghold in the Central Highlands bioregion where, despite 100% of its extant area being in reserves, it is under-reserved in terms of its pre-European extent.

Only 380 patches of this community have been mapped in TNVC 2014; 85% of these are smaller than 10 ha in area.

Athrotaxis cupressoides / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest is adapted to a low level of disturbance. Any increase in disturbances such as fire poses a risk to this community through changes in floristic composition and forest structure. Increase in disturbances such as roading, logging and fire have the capacity to damage rainforest and increase the risk of weeds and disease. The alpine climatic zone is potentially at risk of reduction through the impacts of climate change.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition of *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ RPF *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest

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 *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit RPF within the 'Rainforest and related scrub' 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 PD.

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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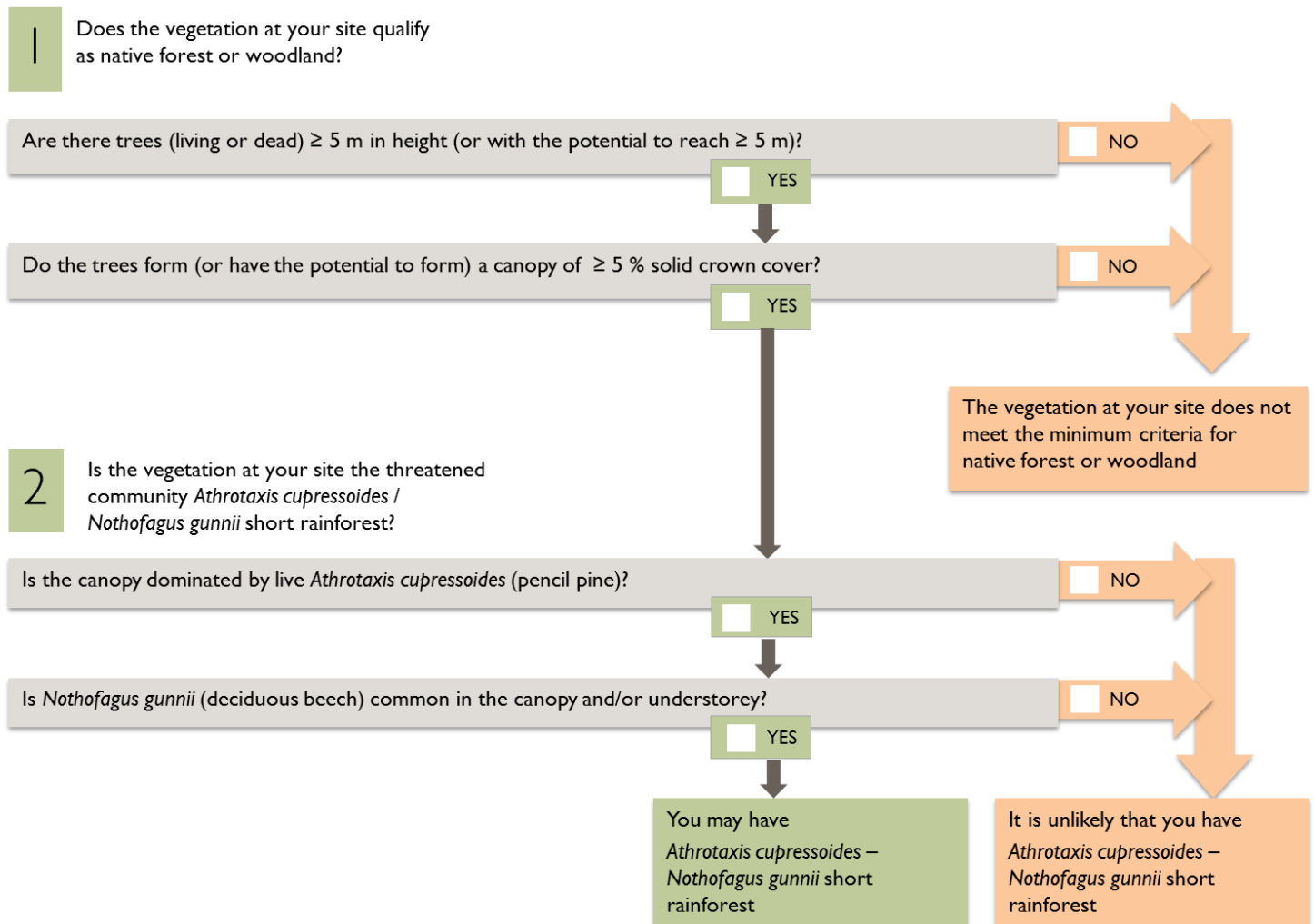
Acknowledgement

DPIPWE gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Forest Practices Authority to the development of the information in this document.



Athrotaxis cupressoides / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest

Is *Athrotaxis cupressoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest present at your site?



Note

- ❖ Where patches of *Athrotaxis cupressoides* occur within stands of tall *Nothofagus gunnii* overtopped by *Athrotaxis selaginoides* (king billy pine) on the West Coast Range, they are included within **6** *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest.