

# Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

## ATHROTAXIS CUPRESSOIDES OPEN WOODLAND

### Conservation status

**Threatened:** Community 4 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

### What is *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland?

This community is open woodland with a canopy dominated by *Athrotaxis cupressoides* (pencil pine) 5-8 m in height. *Eucalyptus coccifera* (snow peppermint), *E. gunnii* (cidergum) or *E. subcrenulata* (alpine yellowgum) are occasionally present.

The community has two distinct forms related to understorey composition.

On the eastern half and northern edge of the Central Plateau *Athrotaxis cupressoides* often occurs over an understorey dominated by shrubs from the Proteaceae and Myrtaceae families such as *Orites acicularis* (yellow orites), *O. revoluta* (revolute orites), *Grevillea australis* (southern grevillea) or *Bellendenia montana* (mountain rocket).

On poorly-drained soils with siliceous substrates *Athrotaxis cupressoides* occurs as a sparse (> 5% cover) canopy over *Sphagnum* spp., *Empodisma minus* (spreading roperush) and *Eurychorda complanata* (flat cordrush).

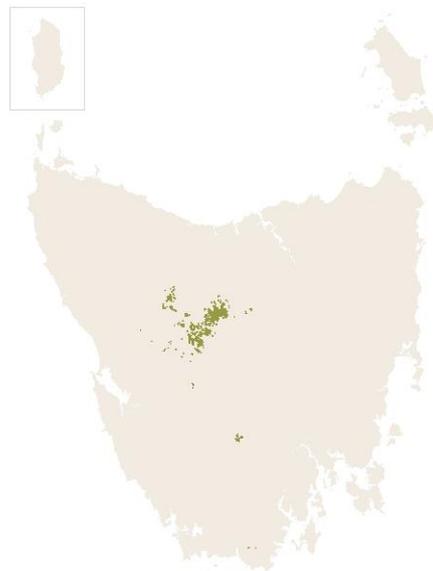
The community generally occurs from 600 to 1400 m elevation as small woodland patches or as sparse woodland over alpine heathland, sedgeland, fernland and *Sphagnum* bogs, and along creek lines and lake margins. It is characteristically found on dolerite.



An example of the *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland community at Cradle Valley, Sib 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* open woodland distribution from TNVC 2014

## *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2014 (TNVC 2014) distribution of *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland is derived from the TASVEG 3.0 mapping of RPW (*Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

*Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 16300 hectares. Of this, 100% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System.

A snapshot of the reservation status *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland 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* open woodland important and what are its management issues?**

The community has a restricted distribution with its stronghold in the Central Highland bioregion, where it is well-reserved. *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland is adapted to a low level of disturbance. Increase in disturbances such as roading, logging and fire pose a risk to this community through changes in floristic composition and forest structure. 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* open woodland, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmarks](#) are recommended:

- ❖ RPW *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland: *Sphagnum* peatland facies
- ❖ RPW *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland: coniferous heathland facies
- ❖ RPW *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland: blockfield and riparian facies

### **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* open woodland refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit RPW within the 'Rainforest and related scrub' section of the online publication [From Forest to Fjaeldmark \(Edition 2\)](#).

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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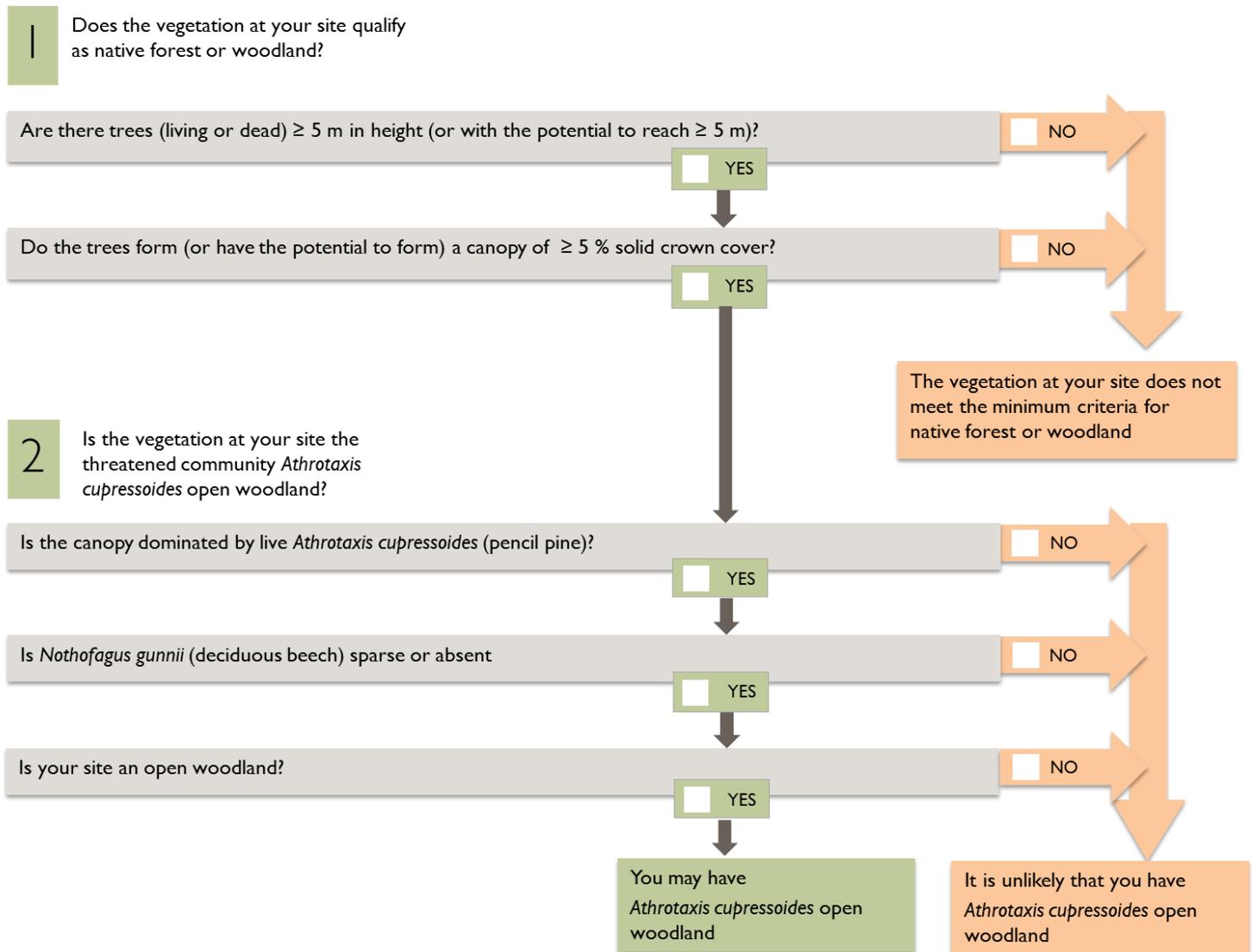
### **Acknowledgement**

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



## *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland

### Is *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland present at your site?



#### Note

- ❖ Where the canopy of trees reaches a solid crown cover of approximately 10% or greater, it may be advisable to refer to the information provided for **5** *Athrotaxis cupressoides* rainforest.