

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

ATHROTAXIS SELAGINOIDES RAINFOREST

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 7 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest?

These are forests of low to moderate height with broken, uneven canopies and tangled understoreys dominated or co-dominated by *Athrotaxis selaginoides* (king billy pine). While the community can form pure stands of *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (myrtle beech) is typically co-dominant or sub-dominant. *Nothofagus gunnii* (deciduous beech) is absent or sparse.

This community includes the unusual (and possibly transitional) canopy combination of *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, *Nothofagus cunninghamii* and tall *Leptospermum nitidum* (shiny teatree).

Athrotaxis selaginoides rainforest grows on high-rainfall sites in central, western and southern Tasmania, between 50 m and 1250 m.



An example of the *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest community between Pine Lake and The Boomerang, Mount Bobs. 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 selaginoides* rainforest distribution from TNVC 2014

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

Athrotaxis selaginoides rainforest has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 19200 hectares. Of this, 85% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System increasing to 92% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest 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 selaginoides* rainforest important and what are its management issues?

Appropriate fire regimes are important to maintain this community. Fires are often only occasional events in this community because it occurs on sites with high rainfall (e.g. south-western Tasmania). *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest formed large forests on sandstone slopes in the southern ranges before much of it was destroyed by fire in the 1930's. There are still some excellent examples of undamaged forest in south-west Tasmania. 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 selaginoides* rainforest, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ RKP *Athrotaxis selaginoides* 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 selaginoides* rainforest refer to relevant sections of the description of the TASVEG mapping unit RKP 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 X.

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

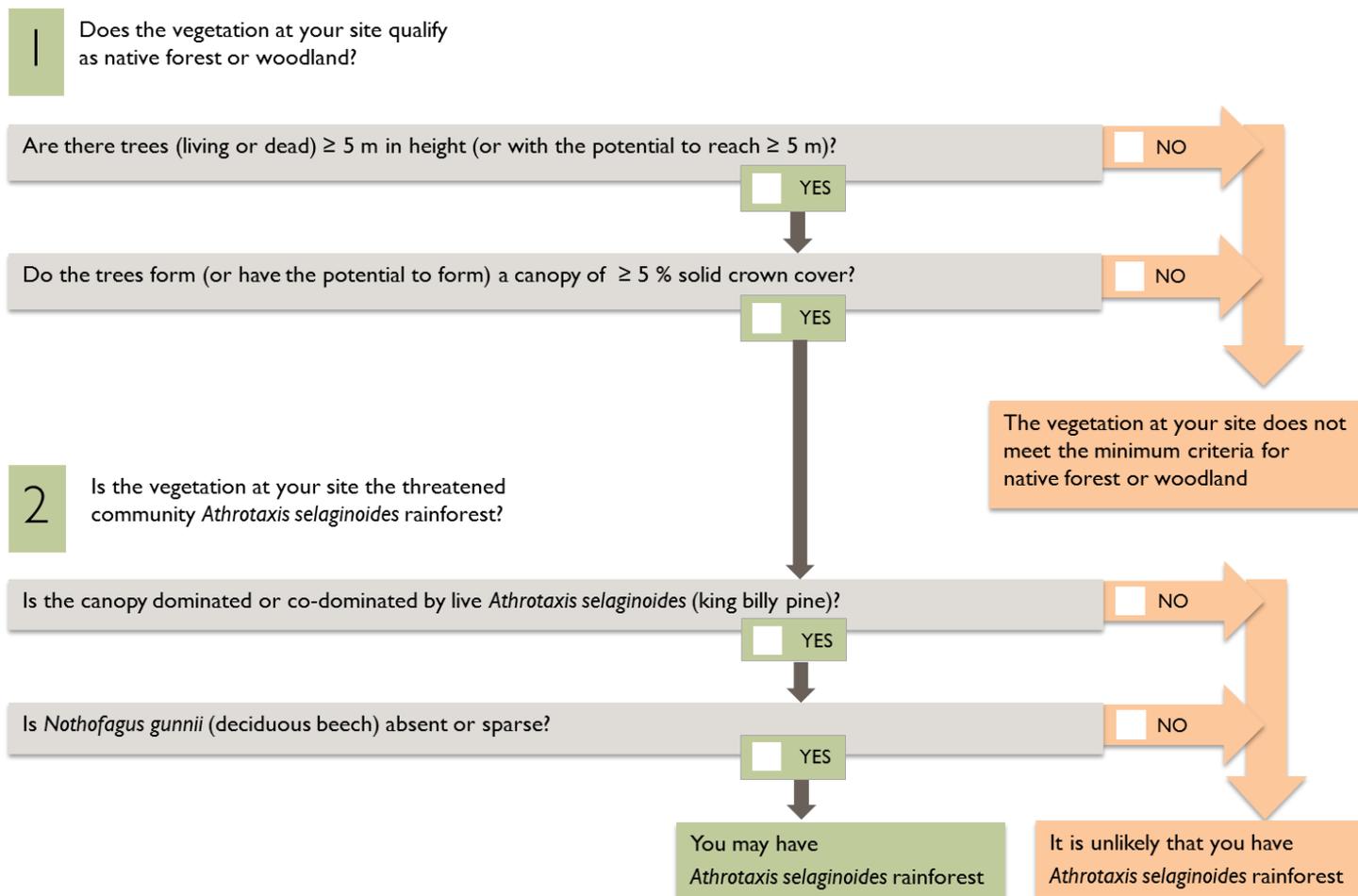
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Is *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest present at your site?



Note

- ❖ Where *Athrotaxis selaginoides* is dominant but the vegetation does not meet the criteria for forest or woodland, it may be advisable to refer to the information provided for **8** *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub.