

# Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

## ATHROTAXIS SELAGINOIDES SUBALPINE SCRUB

### Conservation status

**Threatened:** Community 8 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

### What is *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub?

This uneven-textured sub-alpine scrub has *Athrotaxis selaginoides* (king billy pine) as the prominent canopy species with a diversity of rainforest and wet scrub species such as *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (myrtle), *Richea pandanifolia* (pandan), *Richea scoparia* (candle-heath), *Tasmannia lanceolata* (native pepper), *Agastachys odorata* (white waratah) and *Eucryphia milliganii* (dwarf leatherwood) also typically present.

The community clings to sheltered cliff lines or forms thickets and windrows surrounded by sedgeland/rushland communities on gentle slopes. Typically to 2–5 m in height, but occasionally reaching 8 m, the community occurs in western, south-western and central Tasmania where it grows on low fertility peat soils that have formed over quartzites, flat-lying sandstone or glacially-eroded dolerite between 600 and 1,050 m elevation.

Examples of the community can be found at the southern end of the Lake Dove circuit walk near Cradle Mountain and on the sandstone shelves on the upper slopes of Adamsons Peak west of Dover.

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.



An example of the *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub community at Cradle Mountain. Forest Practices Authority.

### Distribution, extent and reservation status



Indicative *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub distribution from TNVC 2014

## *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub

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

*Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 6, 300 hectares. Of this, 98% is mapped within the secure National Reserve System.

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub for Local Government 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* subalpine scrub important and what are its management issues?**

Most of this rare community occurs in reserves such as the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park and South-West National Park.

The major management issue is exclusion of fire. Most species within this scrub community, for example the rainforest species *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *Eucryphia milliganii* and *Anopterus glandulosus* (native laurel), are killed by fire and may not regenerate for decades afterwards.

### **How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?**

To help you to assess the condition of *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub, the following [TASVEG Vegetation Condition Assessment benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ RKS *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub

### **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* subalpine scrub refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit RKS 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**

TVMMP Coordinator  
GPO Box 44  
Hobart TAS 7001  
Phone: (03) 6165 4320  
Fax: (03) 6233 3477  
Email: [TVMMPsupport@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:TVMMPsupport@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au)

### **Acknowledgement**

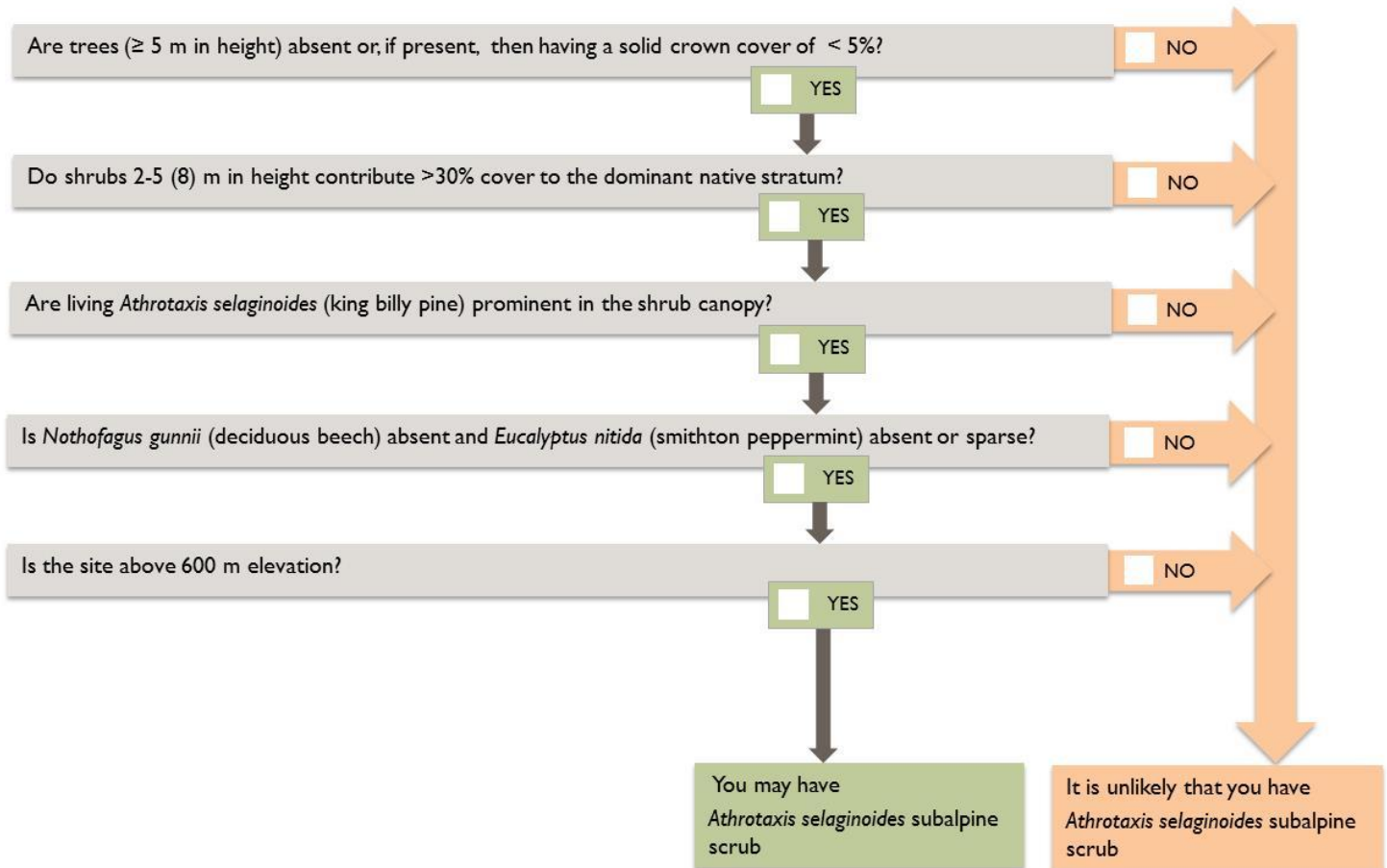
DPIPWE gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Forest Practices Authority to the development of the information in this document.



## *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub

### Is *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub present at your site?

**Q** Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub?



Note: Where *Athrotaxis selaginoides* is prominent in vegetation below 600 m, it may be advisable to refer to the information provided for the listed forest communities **6** *Athrotaxis selaginoides*/*Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest and **7** *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest.