

# Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

## HIGHLAND GRASSY SEDGELAND

### Conservation status

**Threatened:** Community 28 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

### What is Highland grassy sedgeland?

Highland grassy sedgeland is dominated by sedges, mainly the common rapiersedge *Lepidosperma filiforme*, with native grasses such as *Poa gunnii* (guns snowgrass) or *P. labillardierei* var. *labillardierei* (silver tussockgrass) important, but not dominant. A variety of smaller sedges, grasses and herbs are typical.

Highland grassy sedgeland typically occurs between 600 and 850 m above sea level but some small patches are known to occur up to 1,300 m above sea level. It occurs on poorly drained to waterlogged sites where there are alluvial soils or soils derived from basalt, limestone, dolerite or mudstone.

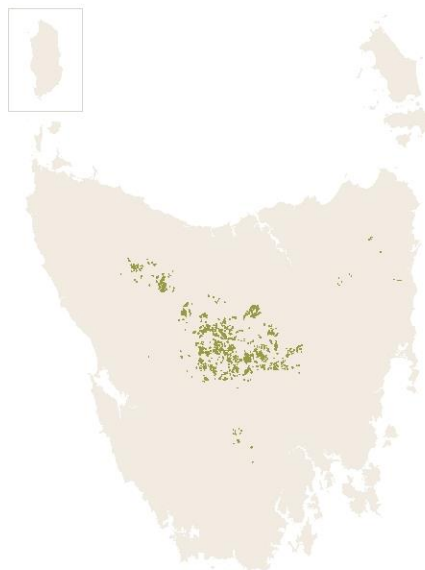
This community can be seen near the Vale of Belvoir and Lake Olive in the north-west; Interlaken and Liawenee Moor on the Central Plateau.



An example of the Highland grassy sedgeland community, Lake Olive Track. 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 Highland grassy sedgeland distribution from TNVC 2014

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2014 (TNVC 2014) distribution of Highland grassy sedgeland is derived from the TASVEG 3.0 mapping of MGH (Highland grassy sedgeland). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Highland grassy sedgeland has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 18,700 hectares. Of this, 54% is mapped within the secure National Reserve System, increasing to 62% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

A snapshot of the reservation status of Highland grassy sedgeland 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 Highland grassy sedgeland important and what are its management issues?**

Highland grassy sedgeland has been extensively modified, with numerous patches now occurring in a 'degraded' condition.

The main issues are the conversion to improved pasture or forestry plantation and degradation through inappropriate fire and grazing regimes and the spread of weeds such as broom and gorse.

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

To help you to assess the condition of Highland grassy sedgeland, the following [TASVEG Vegetation Condition Assessment benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ MGH Highland grassy sedgeland

### **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*).

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

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.

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 Highland Grassy sedgeland refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit MGH within the 'Moorland, sedgeland and rushland' 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**

TVMMMP 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.



Is Highland grassy sedgeland present at your site?



Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community Highland grassy sedgeland?

