

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS KING ISLAND FOREST

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 18 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest?

The community includes all *Eucalyptus globulus* (blue gum) dominated or co-dominated, and occasional *Eucalyptus viminalis* (white gum) dominated forest and woodland on King Island.

The wetter forest is characteristically open crowned and dominated by tall (up to 30 m) even-aged stands of *E. globulus* commonly over a tall, dense stratum of *Leptospermum scoparium* (common tea-tree) or species of *Melaleuca* e.g., *M. ericifolia* (coast paperbark), *M. squarrosa* (scented paperbark). In older or less frequently burnt forest the mid-storey is more mesophytic, commonly including the shrubs *Nematolepis squamea* (satinwood), *Pomaderris apetala* (common dogwood), *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood), and *Pittosporum bicolor* (cheesewood). Ferns are often present in the wetter forests or in riverine habitats. The wet forest grows mostly on Cambrian volcanics and Precambrian sediments in the south-west, extending to the centre of the island. The most extensive stands occur in Pegasus State Forest.

Woodlands are typically co-dominated by *E. globulus* and *E. viminalis*, the latter often, but not always mallee-form. Other facies also occur; notably, near Lake Martha Lavinia, an *E. viminalis*-dominated woodland with tall (up to 30 m) widely dispersed trees occurs. In areas of impeded drainage the community is often co-dominated by *E. globulus* and *E. brookeriana** (brookers gum). In most locations trees grow to about 8 to 16 m tall, but may be shorter in more frequently burnt areas and at sites exposed to strong coastal influences. A tall mid-storey of narrowleaved shrubs can become dense in undisturbed locations. The understorey is highly variable, but typically comprised of heathy species, grasses, graminoids and bracken. The dry woodland component mainly grows on lighter and sandier well-drained soils near the coast.

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 wet forest form of *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest community, Pegasus State Forest. Shelley Duncan.

Distribution, extent and reservation status

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest is derived from the TASVEG 4.0 mapping of DKW (King Island eucalypt woodland) and WGK (*Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Eucalyptus globulus King Island forest has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 2700 hectares. Of this, 41% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System increasing to 51% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest for Local Government Regions is available on the [Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania website](#) and via the 'By Council Area' tab at this [link](#).

Eucalyptus globulus King Island forest



Indicative *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest distribution from TNVC 2020

Why is *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest important and what are its management issues?

Eucalyptus globulus King Island forest is endemic to King Island. The pre-European extent of the wet forest has been greatly reduced to scattered remnants poorly reserved and at risk from further clearance, stock grazing and/or native marsupial browsing, too frequent fire and weed invasion. The dry woodland, though less affected by European land clearing practices, has also been impacted by land clearance, degradation from stocking with cattle and too-frequent fires. The infiltration of plant disease and potential for additional clearing further threatens the integrity of the heathy woodland on the island's southern and eastern coasts.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition of *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest the following [TASVEG VCA benchmarks](#) are recommended:

- ❖ WGK *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest
- ❖ DKW King Island eucalypt woodland
- ❖ DVC *Eucalyptus viminalis* – *Eucalyptus globulus* coastal forest and woodland: (woodland)

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

*The occurrence of *E. ovata* on King Island is debated. For consistency with recent literature this information refers only to *E. brookeriana*. Barnes RW, Duncan F, and Todd CS (2002). The Native Vegetation of King Island, Bass Strait. Nature Conservation Report 02/6. Nature Conservation Branch, Resource Management and Conservation, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

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 *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest refer to the descriptions of the TASVEG mapping units DKW and WGK, respectively within the 'Dry eucalypt forest and woodland' and 'Wet eucalypt forest and woodland' sections of the online publication [From Forest to Fjeldmark \(Edition 2\)](#) and to the Forest Practices Authority's [Forest Botany Manual](#) keys to the floristic communities equivalent to RFA KG.

Further information to assist developers and their representatives in assessing the impacts of proposed developments on natural values is provided in NRE Tasmania's [Guidelines for Natural Values Surveys – Terrestrial Development Proposals](#) and the [Threatened Species Link - Activity Advice](#).

Contact details

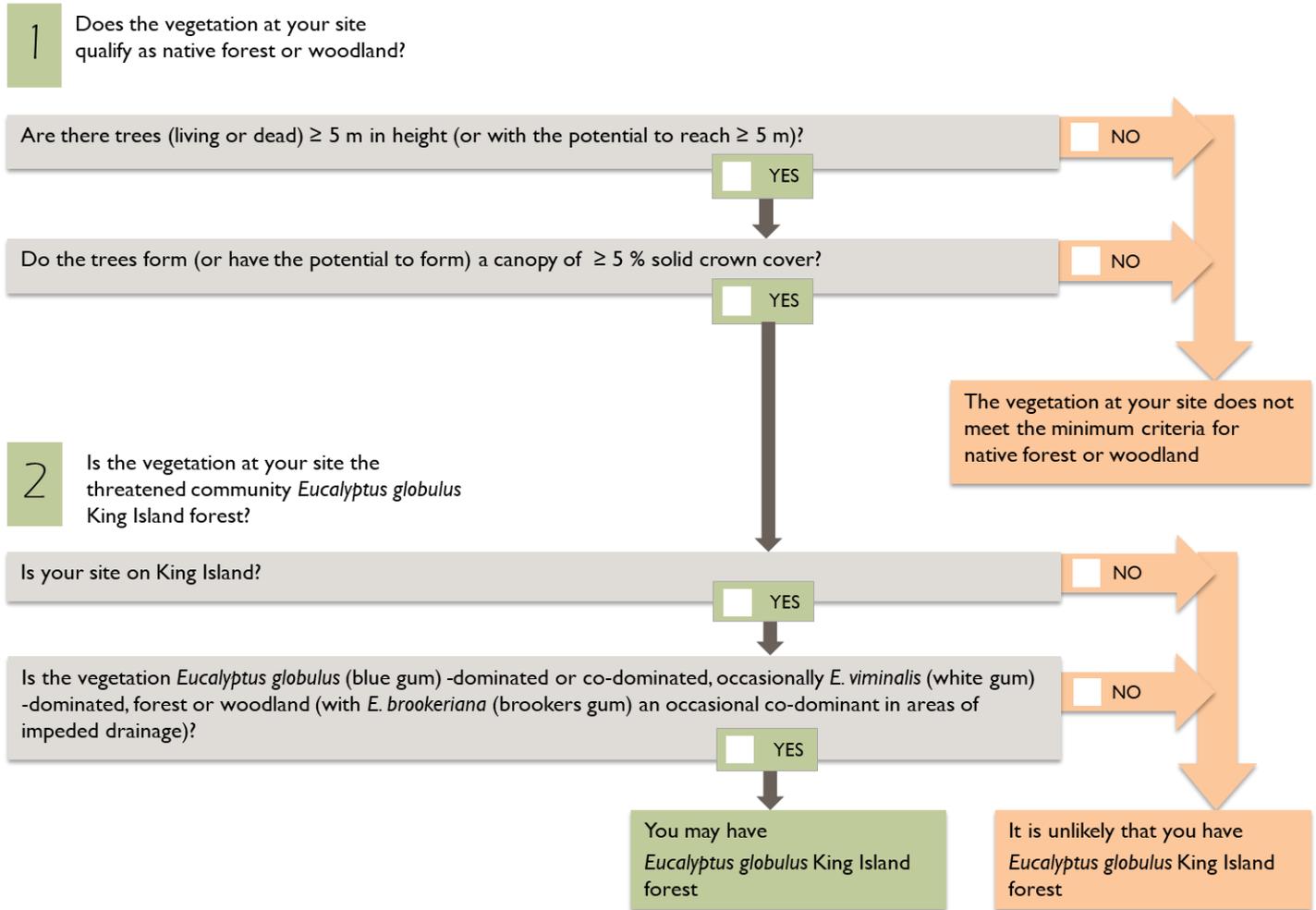
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Is *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest present at your site?



Note:

- ❖ For forest or woodland on King Island not dominated or co-dominated by *Eucalyptus globulus* or occasionally by *E. viminalis*, check the information provided for **16** *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest and **20** *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland.
- ❖ For *Eucalyptus globulus* or *E. viminalis*-dominated forest or woodland *not* on King Island, it may be advisable to check the information provided for **17** *Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest and woodland and **23** *Eucalyptus viminalis* - *Eucalyptus globulus* coastal forest and woodland.