

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

EUCALYPTUS MORRISBYI FOREST AND WOODLAND

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 19 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland?

This community is dominated by a sparse canopy of *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* (morrisbys gum) trees generally < 15 m tall with *E. tenuiramis* (silver peppermint), *E. amygdalina* (black peppermint) and *E. globulus* (blue gum) potentially present as sub-dominants. These are dry sclerophyll communities with shrubby understoreys and a grassy ground layer.

In intact communities, the sub-storey is composed of *Acacia verticillata* (prickly moses), *A. dealbata* (silver wattle), *A. melanoxylon* (blackwood), *A. genistifolia* (spreading wattle), *Pultenaea daphnoides* (heartleaf bushpea), *P. gunnii* (golden bushpea), *Cassinia aculeata* (dollybush) and *Epacris impressa* (common heath). Grazing and high-frequency fires reduce the bush layer to *Bursaria spinosa* (prickly box), *Allocasuarina verticillata* (drooping sheoak) and *Dodonaea viscosa* (broadleaf hopbush). In both cases, the ground layer is composed of *Poa* species and other herbs, although it is much more diverse in intact communities.

Two core populations exist: on recent sands overlying dolerite at Calverts Hill and on Permian mudstone at Risdon. A third population occurs at Lumeah Point.

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 *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland community at Calverts Hill. Bronwyn Hayes.

Distribution, extent and reservation status



Indicative *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland distribution from TNVC 2020. Note that for this distribution image the symbology has been emphasised to improve visibility of community distribution.

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland is derived from the TASVEG 4.0 mapping of DMO (*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Eucalyptus morrisbyi forest and woodland has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 5 hectares. Of this, 79% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System.

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland 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](#).

Why is *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland important and what are its management issues?

The community has an extremely small and localised distribution. Three small patches are identified in TNVC 2020, all less than 5 hectares in area.

The dominant *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* is endemic to south-eastern Tasmania and is known from only two natural populations. This vegetation community is considered at risk of further decline because of its small extent, inappropriate firing, drought, browsing of seedlings and competition from understorey species. The Risdon population appears to be succumbing to the effects of long-term climate change with the trend for warmer, drier summers in more recent times.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition of *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ DMO *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and 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 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 morrisbyi* forest and woodland refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit DMO within the 'Dry eucalypt forest and woodland' 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 MO.

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 morrisbyi* forest and woodland present at your site?

1

Does the vegetation at your site qualify as native forest or woodland?

