

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

HEATHLAND ON CALCAREOUS SUBSTRATES

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 26 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is Heathland on calcareous substrates?

This very rare heathland is low growing and usually windswept and is known mainly from the Furneaux Group of islands.

The community occurs in association with outcropping rock and rocky soil derived from Cainozoic limestone or associated shallow sands. The calcium enriched (highly alkaline) soil surface is often hard, broken, and rocky, and rapidly draining. Sites where this heathland grows are subject to drought due to low rainfall and to desiccating winds.

The community can be found at North Hummock on Prime Seal Island and on the northern and western coastline of Flinders Island.



An example of the Heathland on calcareous substrates community on Prime Seal Island. Micah Visoiu.

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 Heathland on calcareous substrates 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 Heathland on calcareous substrates is derived from the TASVEG 4.0 mapping of SCL (Heathland on calcareous substrates). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Heathland on calcareous substrates has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 200 hectares. Of this, 79% is mapped within the Tasmanian Reserve Estate, all within the secure National Reserve System.

A snapshot of the reservation status of Heathland on calcareous substrates forest for Local Government is available on the [Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania website](#) and via the 'By Council Area' tab at this [link](#).

Why is Heathland on calcareous substrates important and what are its management issues?

Heathland on calcareous substrates has a very high number of plant and animal species occurring in a relatively small area. This makes it important for the protection of biodiversity.

Several rare or threatened plant species occur in this heathland community, including *Acrotriche cordata* (coast groundberry), *Beyeria lechenaultii* var. *latifolia* (pale turpentinebush), *Lasiopetalum macrophyllum* (shrubby velvetbush), *Pomaderris paniculosa* subsp. *paralia* (shining dogwood) and *Threlkeldia diffusa* (coast bonefruit). Many of these species do not occur on the Tasmanian mainland.

Heathland on calcareous substrates is relatively resistant to invasion by weeds if soil nutrient levels are not raised. It may be susceptible to dieback caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (cinnamon fungus), which has the potential to eliminate many heath species.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition of Heathland on calcareous substrates, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ SCL Heathland on calcareous substrates

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 Heathland on calcareous substrates refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit SCL within the 'Scrub, heathland and coastal complexes' section of the online publication [From Forest to Fjeldmark \(Edition 2\)](#).

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 Heathland on calcareous substrates present at your site?

Q Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community Heathland on calcareous substrates?

