

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

HEATHLAND SCRUB COMPLEX AT WINGAROO

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 27- Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo?

The complex is a mixture of heathland, scrub, herbfield, sedgeland, wetland and low open woodland that occurs as a tight mosaic in the vicinity of Wingaroo on the northern end of Flinders Island.

The complex is characterised by its relatively high structural and species diversity over a small area. This is reflective of rapid changes in soil conditions in this unusual part of Flinders Island.

This complex occurs on sandy soils which are 'pock marked' by small areas of peaty soil dominated by sedges, wet heath species and herbs.

This complex can be found at Wingaroo Nature Reserve, north of Carnacs Flat on Flinders Island.



An example of the *Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo* community at Wingaroo, Flinders Island. Stephen Harris.

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 scrub complex at Wingaroo distribution from TNVC 2020

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo is principally derived from the TNVC 2014 dataset updated with TASVEG 4.0 mapping where this contained better information (refer to the metadata statement for TNVC 2020).

Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 1500 hectares. Of this, 98% is mapped within the Tasmanian Reserve Estate, all within the secure National Reserve System.

A snapshot of the reservation status of Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo 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](#).

Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo

Why is Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo important and what are its management issues?

This rare heathland-scrub complex is wholly restricted to the north of Flinders Island. It has a very high number of plant and animal species occurring in a relatively small area which makes it important for the protection of biodiversity.

Several threatened plant and animal species occur in this complex, including *Isopogon ceratophyllus* (horny conebush) and the *Pseudomys novae-hollandiae* (new holland mouse).

Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo is resistant to invasion by weeds if soil nutrient levels are not raised. It is susceptible to and considered at risk of dieback caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (cinnamon fungus), which has the potential to eliminate many heath species, and which has been observed in this community along a drainage line 1 km northwest of 5 Mile Road.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition of Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmarks](#) are recommended:

- ❖ SHW Wet heathland
- ❖ ASF Fresh water aquatic sedgeland and rushland

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 scrub complex at Wingaroo refer to the relevant sections within the descriptions of the TASVEG mapping units: SHW (Scrub, heathland and coastal complexes section), ASF (Saltmarsh and wetland section) in the online publication [From Forest to Fjaeldmark \(Edition 2\)](#) and to the description of the now discontinued SCW (Scrub, heathland and coastal complexes) in [From Forest to Fjaeldmark \(Edition 1\)](#).

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 scrub complex at Wingaroo present at your site?

Q Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo?

