

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

HIGHLAND POA GRASSLAND

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 29 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is Highland *Poa* grassland?

Highland *Poa* grasslands are native grasslands dominated by large tussock grasses, typically *Poa gunnii* (guns snowgrass) and/or *P. labillardierei* (silver tussockgrass), which give the community a silvery-grey appearance. The tussocks may form a closed or open cover with a variety of smaller inter-tussock grasses and herbs.

The community occurs from 600 to 1,000 m above sea level, mainly on soils derived from basalt, dolerite, and limestone.

Examples can be found at: Guildford, Middlesex Plains, Surrey Hills, Lemonthyme Plains and Vale of Belvoir (Northwest); Interlaken and Liawenee Moor (Central Plateau); Paradise Plains and Camden Plateau (Northeast Highlands).

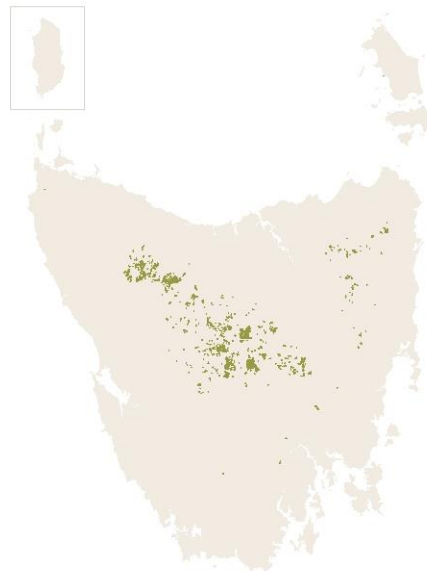


An example of the closed tussock facies of the Highland *Poa* grassland community at Lees Paddocks. Micah Visoiu.

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 Highland *Poa* grassland distribution from TNVC 2020

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of Highland *Poa* grassland is derived from the TASVEG 4.0 mapping of GPH (Highland *Poa* grassland). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Highland *Poa* grassland has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 21,000 hectares. Of this, 26% is mapped within the secure National Reserve System, increasing to 35% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

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

Highland *Poa* grassland has been extensively modified, with many patches now degraded.

Grasslands in good condition have very high species diversity, especially daisies, orchids, and other herbs. Many of the daisy and other herb species found in this community only occur within highland habitats.

Several threatened plant and animal species, such as the *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (chamomile sunray) and *Oreixenica ptunarra* (ptunarra brown butterfly), live in Highland *Poa* grassland.

The main management issues are conversion to improved pasture and plantation, inappropriate fire and grazing regimes, and the spread of weeds such as broom, *Ulex europaeus* (gorse) and *Senecio jacobaea* (ragwort).

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition of Highland *Poa* grassland the following [TASVEG VCA benchmarks](#) are recommended:

- ❖ GPH Highland *Poa* grassland: open tussock grassland facies
- ❖ GPH Highland *Poa* grassland: wet tussock grassland facies

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 Highland *Poa* grassland refer to the TASVEG mapping unit GPH within the 'Native grassland' 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 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 Highland *Poa* grassland present at your site?

Q Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community Highland *Poa* grassland?

