

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

MELALEUCA ERICIFOLIA SWAMP FOREST

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 30 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest?

The community typically occurs as pure or almost pure stands of *Melaleuca ericifolia* (coast paperbark) with trees forming a dense (generally even-aged) canopy over a simple, sedgy understorey. The community includes all successional growth stages, such that patches of short (< 8 m) but pure *M. ericifolia* are also included. *Leptospermum lanigerum* (woolly teatree) and *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood) can be prominent (the latter mostly in the northwest). Some eucalypts, mainly *Eucalyptus ovata* (black gum) and *E. brookeriana* (brookers gum), can be present as subdominants.

Due to a dense cover and frequent flooding, the understorey is generally reduced to a ground layer of tall *Carex appressa* (sedge), *Gahnia grandis* (cutting grass), *Blechnum watsii* (hard waterfern) and *Lepidosperma elatius* (tall sword sedge).

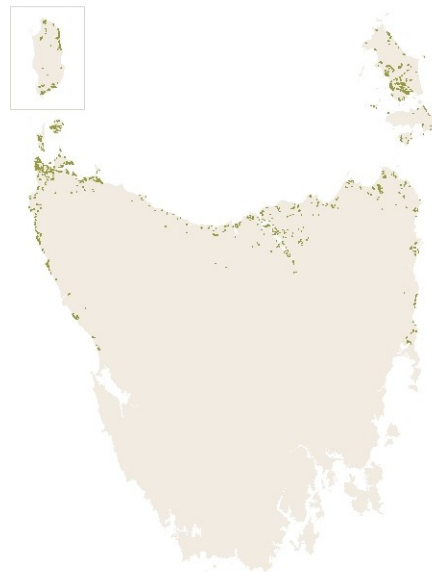
Melaleuca ericifolia swamp forest generally occurs as a narrow strip at the fringe of saltmarsh, lagoons, and rivers, in sites that are poorly drained or intermittently waterlogged.

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 *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest community near Stanley. Micah Visoiu.

Distribution, extent and reservation status



Indicative *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest distribution from TNVC 2020

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest is derived from the TASVEG 4.0 mapping of NME (*Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest).

TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Melaleuca ericifolia swamp forest has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 9800 hectares. Of this, 38% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System increasing to 40% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp 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](#).

Why is *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest important and what are its management issues?

Estimates of loss of pre-1750 area range from more than 50% to more than 70%. The average patch size identified in TNVC 2020 is only 4 hectares.

Old growth stands that demonstrate a long history of regeneration in the absence of catastrophic disturbance (such as unplanned frequent fire, extreme stock disturbance or logging) are very rare.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

To help you to assess the condition *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ NME *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest

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 *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit NME within the 'Non- 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 ME.

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

TVMMP Support
GPO Box 44
Hobart TAS 7001
Email: TVMMPsupport@nre.tas.gov.au

Acknowledgement

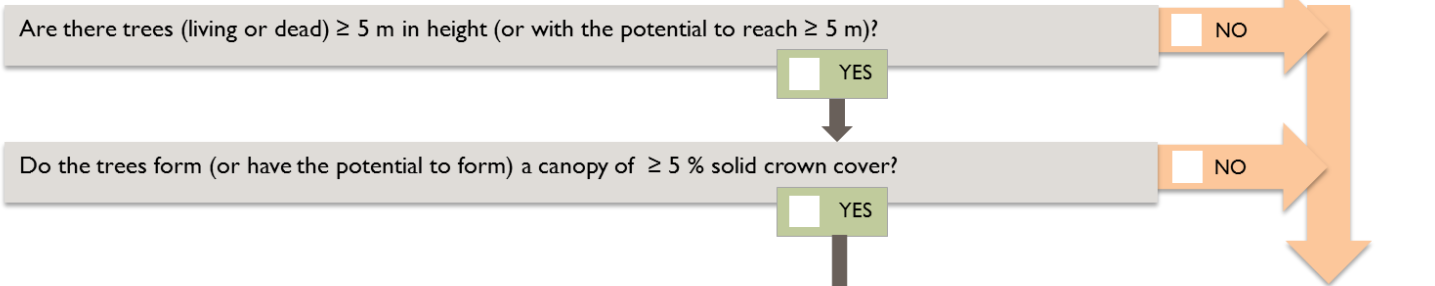
NRE Tasmania gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Forest Practices Authority to the development of the information in this document.



Is Melaleuca ericifolia swamp forest present at your site?

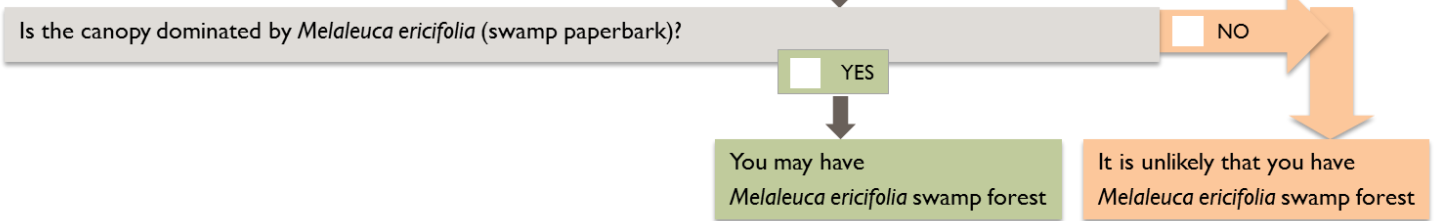
1

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



2

Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community Melaleuca ericifolia swamp forest?



Note

- ❖ The community includes all successional growth stages, such that patches of short (< 8 m) but pure Melaleuca ericifolia are also included.