

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

MELALEUCA PUSTULATA SCRUB

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 31 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub?

This is shrubby vegetation, generally 2-5 m tall, dominated by the endemic *Melaleuca pustulata* (warty paperbark). It can occur as dense stands or with occasional emergent *Eucalyptus globulus* subsp. *globulus* (tasmanian blue gum), *Eucalyptus ovata* var. *ovata* (black gum) or *Callitris rhomboidea* (oyster bay pine).

Acacia mucronata (caterpillar wattle), *Micranthum hexandrum* (river tridentbush) and *Banksia marginata* (silver banksia) occur as occasional shrubs, while native grasses normally dominate the ground layer.

Melaleuca pustulata scrub is restricted to the central East Coast, often found growing on soils derived from dolerite, between Cherry Tree Hill and Swansea, and inland to the base of the Eastern Tiers.

This community can be found near the Wye, Swan and Cygnet Rivers on the central east coast of Tasmania as a well-developed riparian community.



An example of the *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub community at Cherry Tree Hill. Felicity Hargraves.

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 *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub distribution from TNVC 2020

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub is derived from the TASVEG 4.0 mapping of SMP (*Melaleuca pustulata* scrub). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Melaleuca pustulata scrub has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 300 hectares. Of this 14% is mapped within the secure National Reserve System, increasing to 17% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub 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 *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub important and what are its management issues?

This very rare scrub was once widespread on the Cranbrook plains and surrounding low-lying and flat areas. In riparian locations, healthy *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub increases habitat availability for fauna and improves water quality by reducing runoff.

Most of the remaining *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub has been degraded and fragmented by weed invasion (mainly gorse) and land clearing.

Stock can damage the ground layer of herbs and grasses making the scrub susceptible to weed invasion. In extreme cases, canopy trees can be pushed over or made susceptible to wind throw by weakened root systems caused by grazing stock. Soil erosion can occur where damage is done to riparian patches of *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

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

- ❖ SMP *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub

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 pustulata* scrub refer to the TASVEG mapping unit SMP within the 'Scrub, heathland and coastal complexes' 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

TVMMP Coordinator
GPO Box 44
Hobart TAS 7001
Phone: (03) 6165 4320
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 pustulata scrub present at your site?

Q Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community Melaleuca pustulata scrub?

