

Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

RIPARIAN SCRUB

Conservation status

Threatened: Community 34 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

What is Riparian scrub?

Riparian scrub grows along streams, creeks, rivers, and around other water bodies such as lakes, lagoons, and wetlands. This scrub community is 2 to 5 (8) m in height and, while variable, is characterised by the presence of distinctly riparian taxa such as *Micrantheum hexandrum* (river tridentbush), *Grevillea australis* var. *australis* (southern grevillea), *Leptospermum lanigerum* (woolly tea-tree), *Pomaderris apetala* (dogwood) and species of *Acacia* such as *Acacia mucronata* (caterpillar wattle). Other species such as *Notelaea ligustrina* (native olive) and *Melaleuca virens* (prickly bottlebrush) are often present, as are species of *Melaleuca* (paperbark), *Asterotrichion discolor* (tasmanian currajong) and *Beyeria viscosa* (pinkwood). Eucalypts are sparse or absent in this type of scrub.

The vegetation community can be found at the ford on St Pauls River, Cygnet River near Swansea, Prosser River near Orford and around Lake Meadowbank south of Ouse.



An example of the eastern form of Riparian scrub at Prosser River. 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 Riparian scrub distribution from TNVC 2020

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of Riparian scrub is principally derived from the TNVC 2014 dataset updated with [TASVEG 4.0](#) mapping of SRE (Eastern riparian scrub) (refer to the metadata statement for TNVC 2020). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

Riparian scrub has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 2900 hectares. Of this, 23% is mapped within the secure National Reserve System, increasing to 36% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

A snapshot of the reservation status of Riparian 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 Riparian scrub important and what are its management issues?

Healthy streambanks and Riparian scrub increase habitat for fauna and improve water quality by reducing runoff.

In some locations, such as St Pauls River and Lake River, Riparian scrub is dominated by geographically restricted threatened plant species such as *Callitris oblonga* subsp. *oblonga* (south esk pine) and *Acacia axillaris* (midlands wattle).

Much remnant native riparian vegetation is confined to the less productive parts of rivers. The banks of many rivers that flow through fertile lowland floodplains have been cleared and replaced with pasture, willow, or other exotic species. This has been detrimental to the health and natural ecology of the state's river systems.

Stock access to Riparian scrub can damage vegetation cover which can lead to riverbank erosion, soil compaction, and weed invasion.

How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?

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

- ❖ SRE Eastern riparian 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 Riparian scrub refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit SRE within the 'Scrub, heathland and coastal complexes' section of the online publication [From Forest to Fjaeldmark \(Edition 2\)](#) and to the description of the now discontinued SRI (Scrub, heathland and coastal complexes section) in the first edition of From Forest to Fjaeldmark.

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

TVMMMP Support
GPO Box 44
Hobart TAS 7001
Email: TVMMPSupport@nre.tas.gov.au

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Is Riparian scrub present at your site?

Q Is the vegetation at your site the threatened community Riparian scrub?

