

# Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

## ATHROTAXIS SELAGINOIDES / NOTHOFAGUS GUNNII SHORT RAINFOREST

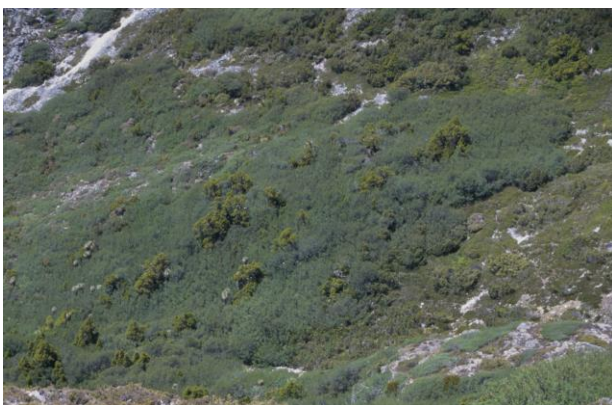
### Conservation status

**Threatened:** Community 6 - Schedule 3A *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

### What is *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest?

This is short forest in which *Athrotaxis selaginoides* (king billy pine) is dominant over *Nothofagus gunnii* (deciduous beech). The composition of the understorey varies according to the site. In the eastern part of its range (e.g., Cradle Mountain-Lake Saint Clair National Park) there may be few other species, while in the west diversity is typically high, with *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (myrtle beech), *Diselma archeri* (dwarf pine) and *Richea pandanifolia* (pandani) usually present. The community can occur as dense and continuous forest, or as smaller patches within alpine heathlands and sedgeland.

The community is generally found in unburned alpine areas between 400 m and 1300 m, and commonly above 900 m. It generally grows on well-drained organic soils with a siliceous substrate on gentle slopes below alpine plateaus, such as above Lake Wilkes and east of Mount Read.



An example of the *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest community on the slopes of Mount Wilkes, Cradle Mountain area. Sib Corbett.

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 *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest distribution from TNVC 2020

The Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020 (TNVC 2020) distribution of *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest is derived from the TASVEG 4.0 mapping of RKF (*Athrotaxis selaginoides* *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest). TASVEG mapping units provide only an indicative distribution of listed communities.

*Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest has an approximate Tasmania-wide extent of 2000 hectares. Of this, 91% of the community is mapped within the secure National Reserve System increasing to 95% in the wider Tasmanian Reserve Estate, which also includes informal and fixed-term reserves.

## *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest

A snapshot of the reservation status of *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest 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 *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest important and what are its management issues?**

The community has a restricted distribution with its stronghold in the Central Highlands bioregion where, despite 95% of its extant area being in reserves, it is under-reserved in terms of its pre-European extent.

Around 355 patches of this community, with an average patch size of 5 hectares, have been mapped in TNVC 2020.

*Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest is adapted to a low level of disturbance. Any increase in disturbances such as fire poses a risk to this community through changes in floristic composition and forest structure. Increase in disturbances such as roading, logging and fire have the capacity to damage rainforest and increase the risk of weeds and disease. The alpine climatic zone is potentially at risk of reduction through the impacts of climate change.

### **How can the condition of the vegetation be assessed?**

To help you to assess the condition of *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest, the following [TASVEG VCA benchmark](#) is recommended:

- ❖ RKF *Athrotaxis selaginoides* - *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest

### **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 *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest refer to the description of the TASVEG mapping unit RKF within the 'Rainforest and related scrub' 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 F.

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 Coordinator  
GPO Box 44  
Hobart TAS 7001  
Phone: (03) 6165 4320  
Email: [TVMMPSupport@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:TVMMPSupport@nre.tas.gov.au)

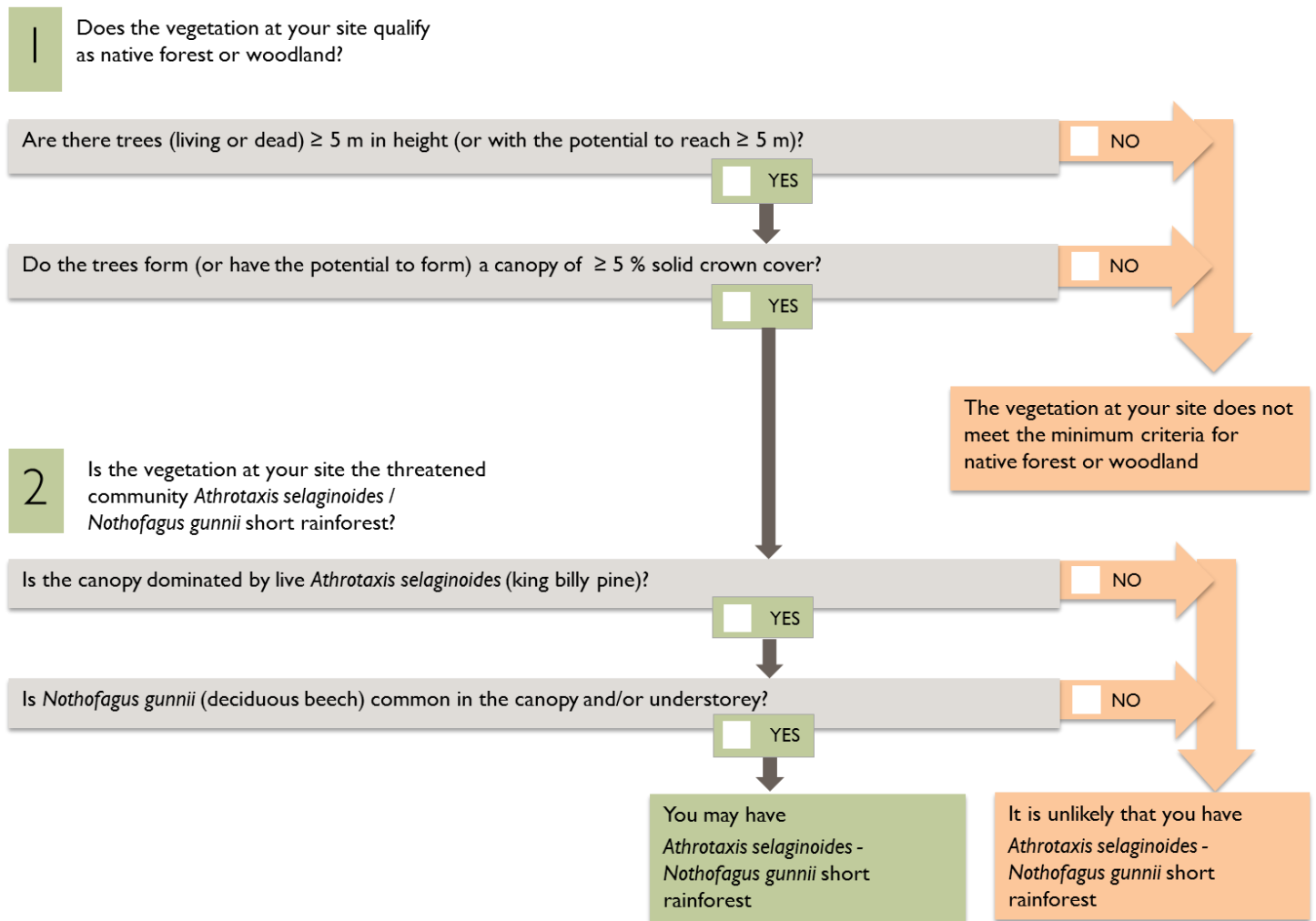
### **Acknowledgement**

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



## *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest

### Is *Athrotaxis selaginoides* / *Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest present at your site?



#### Note

- ❖ Where *Athrotaxis selaginoides* is dominant but the vegetation does not meet the criteria for forest or woodland, it may be advisable to refer to the information provided for **8** *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub.