TasVeg Classification Guide

A practical reference for vegetation mapping in Tasmania

About TasVeg

TasVeg is Tasmania's comprehensive vegetation mapping system. Developed by the **Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tasmania)**, it classifies all of Tasmania's vegetation into more than **150 communities** using a standardised code system.

- **First released in 2004**, TasVeg is continually updated as new mapping and field survey information becomes available.
- It is used widely for **conservation planning, development approvals, ecological research, and natural resource management**.
- TasVeg underpins the **LISTmap online mapping platform**, where users can explore vegetation communities spatially.

🔗 Learn more at NRE Tasmania – TasVeg

How the Classification Works

TasVeg uses a **hierarchical structure**:

1. **Broad Vegetation Groups** – e.g., forest, grassland, heath, wetland
2. **Vegetation Communities** – specific ecological groupings (e.g., *Eucalyptus pulchella forest and woodland*)
3. **Mapping Codes** – unique three-letter codes used in mapping and databases (e.g., *DPU*)

This makes the system flexible and suitable for both fine-scale fieldwork and broad-scale mapping.

Major TasVeg Groups

🌳 Forests and Woodlands

Tasmania's dominant vegetation type.

- **Dry Eucalypt Forest and Woodland** – found on well-drained, nutrient-poor soils (e.g., *Eucalyptus amygdalina forest and woodland on sandstone – DAS*).

- **Wet Eucalypt Forest and Rainforest** – lush, tall forests with high biodiversity (e.g., *Eucalyptus obliqua wet forest – WOB*).
- **Non-eucalypt Forest** – dominated by species like *Callitris oblonga* (South Esk pine) or *Athrotaxis cupressoides* (pencil pine).

🌾 Grasslands

Once widespread in the Midlands and East Coast, now highly fragmented.

- **Lowland Native Grasslands** (e.g., *Lomandra longifolia – GPL*).
- **Alpine Grasslands** dominated by tussock-forming grasses above the treeline.

🌿 Heathlands and Moorlands

Diverse shrub-dominated systems.

- **Coastal Heath** with species like *Banksia marginata* and *Leptospermum*.
- **Buttongrass Moorland (MBU)**, a fire-adapted ecosystem covering large areas in western Tasmania.

🪨 Alpine Complex

Above ~900–1200 m elevation.

- Cushion plants, snow grass, and hardy shrubs.
- Includes *feldmark* (sparse vegetation on exposed alpine rock).

💧 Wetlands and Waterways

Critical for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- **Freshwater Wetlands** (e.g., marshes, bogs, lagoons).
- **Coastal Saltmarsh (ASS)**, important for birdlife and nutrient cycling.
- **Riparian Vegetation** along rivers and streams.

🚜 Non-Native and Disturbed Vegetation

TasVeg also maps areas of modified vegetation.

- **Plantations** (e.g., Pinus radiata plantations – FPL).
- **Urban and Cropped Areas** (FUR, FPC).
- **Disturbed or Cleared Land** (e.g., quarry sites, pasture).

Example Codes at a Glance

- **DPU** – *Eucalyptus pulchella forest and woodland*
- **GPL** – *Lowland Poa grassland*
- **MBU** – *Buttongrass moorland*
- **ASS** – *Coastal saltmarsh*
- **RHP** – *Riparian scrub*

How to Use TasVeg

- **Planning & Development** – check vegetation types before clearing, building, or rehabilitation works.
- **Conservation** – identify priority habitats and threatened vegetation communities.
- **Education** – use codes and groups to learn ecological classification and mapping.
- **On-Ground Works** – match revegetation species to mapped communities.

Further Reading

For a detailed description of each vegetation community, see:

🔗 Forest to Fjaeldmark – Descriptions of Tasmania's Vegetation