

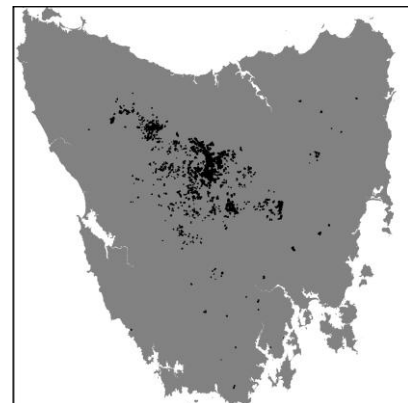
HIGHLAND POA GRASSLAND

(TASVEG code - GPH)

Conservation status: RARE, ENDANGERED

What is *Highland Poa Grassland*?

- *Highland Poa Grassland* is a type of native grassland occurring from 600 to 1000 m above sea level, mainly on soils derived from basalt, dolerite and limestone. The map shows the known distribution of this vegetation type.
- It is dominated by large native tussock grasses, with a variety of smaller grasses and herbs between the tussocks. It often has a silvery-grey appearance, especially when dominated by silver tussock grass or white grass (*Poa labillardierei*). Many of the daisies and other herb species only occur within highland habitats.



Where can I see *Highland Poa Grassland*?

- Examples can be found at: Guildford, Middlesex Plains, Surrey Hills, Lemonthyme Plains and Vale of Belvoir (Northwest); Interlaken and Liawenee Moor (Central Plateau); Paradise Plains and Camden Plateau (Northeast Highlands).



Why is *Highland Poa Grassland* important and what are its management issues?

- *Highland Poa Grassland* has been extensively modified, with many patches now degraded.
- Grasslands in good condition have very high species diversity, especially daisies, orchids and other herbs.
- Several threatened plant and animal species, such as the Chamomile Sunray (*Rhodanthe anthemoides*) and Ptunarra Brown Butterfly, live in *Highland Poa Grassland*.
- The main management issues are conversion to improved pasture and plantation, inappropriate fire and grazing regimes, and the spread of weeds (e.g. broom, gorse, ragwort).



Do I have *Highland Poa Grassland* on my property?

The flow chart will help you to decide if *Highland Poa Grassland* may be on your property.

You should assess your 'site' at a scale of 0.1 ha (0.25 acres) or greater. Spring and summer are usually the best seasons to identify grassland species, but you may need to take account of climatic conditions (seasonal variations and drought) or time since disturbance (e.g. fire, heavy grazing or slashing).



Need help?

Contact the FPA or TFGA

Is the site **above 600 m elevation**? YES NO


Imagine that each eucalypt is an 'umbrella'. **Do they collectively shade more than 10% of the ground?** (Answer NO if eucalypts are absent) YES NO

Do **native tussock grasses** cover more than 25% of the ground? NO YES

Do **sedges, rushes, buttongrass or cutting-grass** cover more than 40% of the ground? YES NO

Imagine that each shrub or small tree is an 'umbrella'. **Do they collectively shade more than 30% of the ground?** (Answer NO if these are absent) YES NO

Did the site previously carry **eucalypt forest or woodland**, which was **cleared after 1985**? YES NO

 Use the boxes to record your decisions

You may have *Highland Poa Grassland*

You don't have *Highland Poa Grassland* BUT you should check the *Highland Grassy Sedgeland* information sheet

What does it mean if I have *Highland Poa Grassland* on my property?

- If you want to **clear and convert** an area of *Highland Poa Grassland* you will need a forest practices plan. You should seek advice from the Forest Practices Authority. **Please check if you are in doubt.**
- Information on ways to make sure your grazing and fire management are compatible with environmental values can be obtained from the the Forest Practices Authority or Dept of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment.



Need help or more information on threatened native vegetation communities?

Forest Practices Authority: 30 Patrick St, Hobart 7000; phone – 6233 7966; Online - www.fpa.tas.gov.au

DPIPWE: 134 Macquarie St, Hobart 7000; phone – 6233 8538; Online – www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Information and assistance for landholders is also available from the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association: cnr Cimitiere and Charles St, Launceston 7250; phone – 6332 1800