

MVG 7—CALLITRIS FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

- Pure stands are restricted to localised pockets on undulating to flat land, most often in sites offering some protection from fire. An alliance with eucalypt species is more common. Other outlying populations occur on upland rocky areas protected from regular fire events.
- Generally dominated by a herbaceous understorey with only a few shrubs.
- Associated shrub species in the arid and semi-arid zones include *Eremophila*, *Dodonaea*, chenopods such as *Atriplex*, *Maireana*, *Sclerolaena* and grasses such as *Triodia*, *Plectrachne*, *Aristida* and *Austrostipa*.
- Large areas of *C. glaucophylla* (white cypress pine) woodlands occur in New South Wales and parts of South Australia. Also in South Australia, *C. gracilis* (slender cypress pine) open forests, woodlands and open woodlands occur as does *C. verrucosa* (mallee pine). *C. glaucophylla* woodland and open forests with mixed eucalypt and casuarina species occur in Queensland. In the Australian Capital Territory *C. endlicheri* (black cypress pine) occurs as a subdominant in Eucalypt Open Forests (MVG 3) and as a woodland in New South Wales. *C. rhomboidea* occurs with mixed eucalypt and casuarina species in Tasmania and Victoria and is dominant in some situations. *C. gracilis* and *C. glaucophylla* woodlands occur in Victoria. In Western Australia, *Callitris* spp. are a component of several mixed species woodlands and open woodlands.



Photo: M. Fagg

Callitris woodland, Tailem Bend, SA

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Facts and figures

Major Vegetation Group	MVG 7—Callitris Forests and Woodlands
Major Vegetation Subgroups (number of NVIS descriptions)	Callitris forests and woodlands (111)
Typical NVIS structural formations	Open forest (low, mid, tall) Woodland (low, mid, tall) Open woodland (low, mid)
Number of IBRA regions	28
Most extensive in IBRA region	Est. pre-1750 and present: Cobar Peneplain (NSW)
Estimated pre-1750 extent (km²)	40 278
Present extent (km²)	32 296
Area protected (km²)	1 959

Geography

- Large areas occur in semi arid regions of south-central Queensland and in central New South Wales, such as the Pilliga scrub. Small pockets also occur in South Australia (large area throughout the Flinders Ranges), southern New South Wales and northern Victoria. Small areas of mixed communities occur in the northern wheatbelt of Western Australia.
- Largest area occurs in New South Wales (21 104 km²).
- Occur in areas where the summers are hot and the winters are mild to warm. Rainfall is variable from 400 mm to 600 mm.
- Occur mainly in the drier climates compared with other forests and woodlands.
- Modified by selective logging for timber since the early days of settlement (e.g. cypress pine was used in the nineteenth century to build homes for the European settlers in areas such as Rosedale and Sandy Creek in South Australia). The termite resistance of cypress pine has made it a very important flooring timber and—previously—a framing timber.
- State forests in the Brigalow Belt of New South Wales and Queensland contain extensive forest areas dominated by cypress where silvicultural and fire management practices foster its precedence over other canopy trees.
- Modified (particularly understorey species) for pastoral activities associated with sheep and cattle. Understorey species may also have been affected by modified fire regimes since settlement.

Change

- Approximately 20% of the estimated pre-1750 extent cleared accounting for 0.8% of total clearing in Australia.
- Approximately 8 000 km² cleared since European settlement.
- Cleared for mining activities in some localised areas.
- Recruitment and regeneration affected by total grazing pressure.
- Alternative fire regimes can have marked effects on the structure and species composition of this MVG.

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Tenure

Callitris Forests and Woodlands mainly occur on leasehold and freehold land.

New South Wales:	leasehold land, freehold land, some protected areas and state forests
Queensland:	state forests, protected areas, freehold land, leasehold land
South Australia:	leasehold and freehold land and protected areas
Victoria:	protected areas and freehold land
Western Australia:	leasehold land



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Key values

- Biodiversity.
- Remnant populations of a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate species.
- Timber values—early settlers used callitris for construction, now the forests provide specialty timbers.

Management considerations

- Clearing and edge effects, especially for smaller remnants.
- Management of total grazing pressure.
- Fire regime/likelihood of hot fires (e.g. some remnant stands in Pilbara have been protected from fire for extensive periods).
- Weed control.

These forests and woodlands have been extensively cleared for agriculture (especially brigalow and mulga

communities) and modified by pastoral activities or (in localised areas) mining activities. In recent years, as the pastoral industry has faced an economic downturn, some of these forests and woodlands have been purchased for conservation (e.g. in Western Australia).

References

Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (1990) *Atlas of Australian Resources. Volume 6* Vegetation. AUSMAP, Department of Administrative Services, Canberra, 64pp. & 2 maps.

Beadle N.C.W. (1981) *The Vegetation of Australia*. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 690pp.

Harris S. and Kitchener A. (2005) *From Forest to Fjaeldmark. Descriptions of Tasmania's vegetation*. Dept of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart, 432pp.



Photo: M. Fagg

Callitris glaucophylla (white cypress-pine) woodland, Snowy River National Park, Vic

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Morgan G. (2001) *Landscape Health in Australia. A rapid assessment of the relative condition of Australia's bioregions and subregions*. Environment Australia and National Land & Water Resources Audit, Canberra, 109pp.

National Land & Water Resources Audit (2001a) *Australian Native Vegetation Assessment 2001*. National Land & Water Resources Audit, Canberra, 332pp.

Data sources

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 6.1.

Land Tenure in Australia's Rangelands (1955 to 2000), National Land and Water Resources Audit.

National Vegetation Information System, Version 3.0.

1996/97 Land Use of Australia, Version 2.

Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database—CAPAD 2004—Terrestrial.

Notes

- Further areas of this group have been identified in central Queensland from new state data supplied to NVIS.
- See the [Introduction to the MVG fact sheets](#) for further background on this series



Photo: DEW

Trees at mallee private reserve near Mildura, Vic.