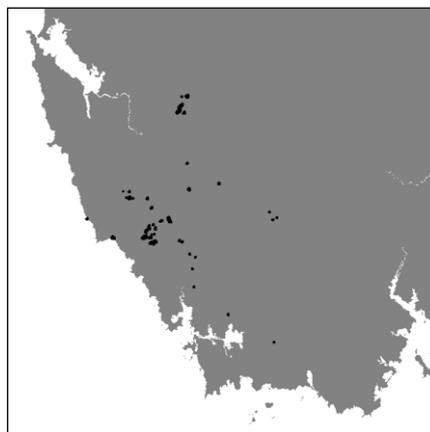


ALKALINE PANS
(TASVEG code - MAP)

Conservation status: RARE

What are *Alkaline Pans*?

- *Alkaline Pans* are very distinctive; they form where dolomite or limestone outcrop within the buttongrass moorlands of south-west Tasmania. The dolomite and limestone derived gravels and sands are very alkaline (pH 5.0 to 8.5) while the nearby peat soils are in the acidic range (pH 4.0 to 4.5).
- Pans are typically flat or gently sloping and may rise towards their centre. Sheet water flow is common, as are temporary shallow pools or flowing channels of water.
- The vegetation growing in pans is often very sparse and dominated by heath and sedge species. Plant species that prefer an acidic soil, such as button grass (*Gymnoschoenus spaerocephalus*), are absent.



Where can I see examples of *Alkaline Pans*?

- The map shows the current known distribution of *Alkaline Pans*. The only sites accessible by road are some small examples near Sandfly Creek adjacent to Scotts Peak Road near Lake Pedder. Other examples can be observed near the Maxwell River in the South-West World Heritage Area.

Why are *Alkaline Pans* important and what are their management issues?

- *Alkaline Pans* occur in unique and localized habitats where the right conditions exist, with only 3,100 hectares known to occur in Tasmania. All known occurrences of this moorland occur in reserves, such as the Wild Rivers National Park and the South-West National Park.
- The management issues for *Alkaline Pans* are changes to drainage and pH and fire. The accumulation of organic matter ('peat') in pans gradually changes pH and drainage that may cause the pan to become dominated by acidic-loving species. Hot fires in peat around *Alkaline Pans* with subsequent water erosion may actually initiate and extend the life of some pans.
- *Alkaline Pans* are a very 'dynamic' type of moorland and for this reason they are often associated with rivers and areas of frequent erosion.



Photo: Stephen Harris



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