

# COASTAL FLAX COMMUNITY

The Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project has described and mapped 14 distinct native plant communities on Norfolk Island. This series of fact sheets presents information about each of the communities.

## Coastal Flax Community

**Coastal slopes with some protection, more common on the southern side of Norfolk Island, particularly where pines offer shade.**

This community is somewhat speculative as little evidence remains of its original character and distribution. Although it was present by the time of the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1774, it is

also not clear if the key species flax (*Phormium tenax*) is native to Norfolk Island. *Dianella intermedia* grows to 60cm with pale violet flowers followed by turquoise berries. *Asplenium difforme* is part of the spleenwort group of ferns and its fronds are thick and waxy to protect it from sea spray.



Coastal Flax Community at Ball Bay. Photo: Kevin Mills

# COASTAL FLAX COMMUNITY

Plant community	Key species	Other species	Threatened species
<b>Coastal Flax Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>)</li> <li>• <i>Dianella intermedia</i></li> <li>• Coastal coprosma (<i>Coprosma baueri</i>)</li> <li>• Norfolk pine, emergent (<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>)</li> <li>• <i>Asplenium difforme</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Senecio spp.</i></li> <li>• White oak (<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal coprosma (<i>Coprosma baueri</i>)</li> </ul>

## Indicative species composition

The table above identifies the key species present (those species that are most characteristic of the plant community), other species (additional species that are likely to be present and assist in defining the community), and some of the threatened species present.

## Further information

These fact sheets are based on the Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project conducted by the Invasive Species Council between 2018 and 2020. Naomi Christian and Dr Kevin Mills conducted the vegetation surveys, and described and mapped the native plant communities. Two maps were produced – one showing the estimated distribution of native plant communities in 1750, and one showing their distribution in 2020.

The plant community maps are available at:

- [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project)
- [www.invasives.org.au/niveg](http://www.invasives.org.au/niveg)

**There are 180 native plant species on the Norfolk Island Group, of which around 25% are endemic.**

**Forty-six species have been identified as threatened with**

**extinction.** Describing and mapping the 14 native plant communities was done to help land managers protect and restore habitat for these threatened species and other wildlife of Norfolk Island.

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