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Australian forest profiles

Callitris



Callitris trees are found only in Australia and New Caledonia with 13 of the 15 species found in Australia. Callitris trees are commonly called cypress pines because they are related to, and resemble, northern hemisphere cypresses. However, they are not true pines.

Australia has 2.1 million hectares of the Callitris forest type. This forest type typically grows in small patches in drier inland regions, but occasionally covers wide

areas. Pure stands of callitris are generally restricted to undulating or flat land with sandy soils, or to upland rocky areas that are protected from fire. Individual callitris trees are often present in Acacia, Casuarina and Eucalypt forests with a shrubby, grassy or herb-rich understorey.

The name callitris is derived from the Greek words *kallos* (beauty) and *treis* (three) and refers to the arrangement of leaflets in whorls of three.



Stand of white cypress pines (*Callitris glaucophylla*)
Michael Ryan

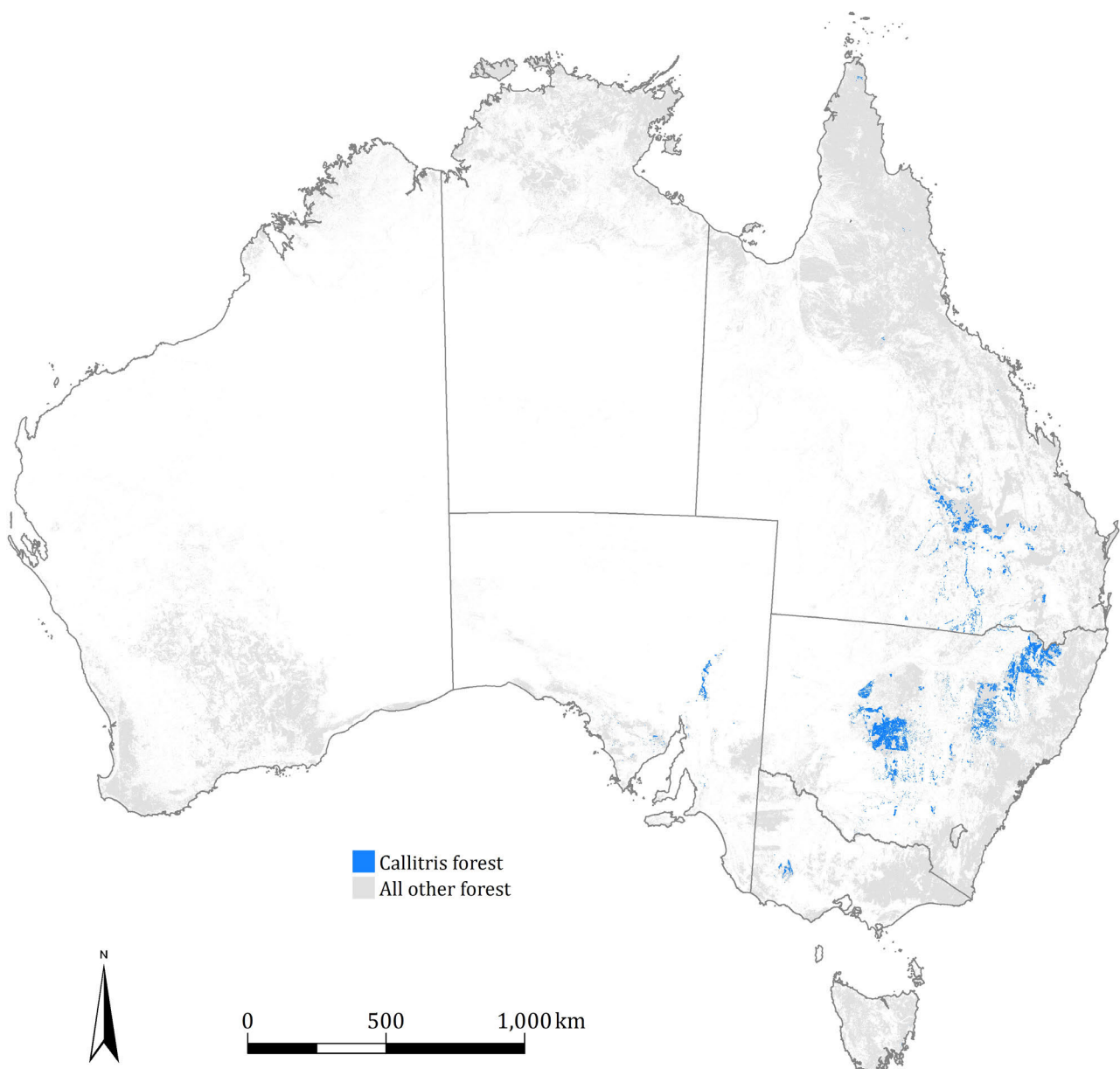
Distribution and ownership

Callitris forests occur in all states (Map 1). A total of 1.5 million hectares (70 per cent) of the Callitris forest type is in New South Wales, mainly in the Central West and New England regions. Callitris forest also extends through Queensland's Darling Downs and Central regions. White cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) is widespread south of the Tropic of Capricorn, with extensive stands in southern Queensland and northern New South

Wales. Small stands of callitris trees are found in south-western Western Australia, including the Rottne Island pine (*C. preissii*), which is endemic to the region.

A total of 1.0 million hectares (45 per cent) of Callitris forest is on leasehold land and 0.7 million hectares (12 per cent) are on private land (Table 1).

MAP 1 Distribution of Callitris native forest, 2013



Projection: Albers equal-area with standard parallels 18°S and 36°S.

Source: ABARES (2016). Map compiled by ABARES 2016

[Open a high-resolution version of Map 1 that can be saved as a PNG file](#)

TABLE 1 Ownership of Callitris native forest, by state and territory, 2013 ('000 hectares)

Tenure	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas.	Vic.	WA	Australia
Leasehold	0	643	0	266	41	0	0	0	950
Multiple-use public forest	0	114	0	148	0	0	1	0	263
Nature conservation reserve	0	164	0	13	16	0	22	0	215
Other Crown land	0	4	0	7	0	0	0	0	11
Private	0	564	0	106	7	0	0	0	678
Unresolved tenure	0	0	0	18	0.1	0	0	0	18
Total	0	1 489	0	557	65	1	24	0	2 136

Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding. The six forest tenure categories are defined in *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2013*.

Source: ABARES (2016)

[Download Table 1 data as an Excel workbook](#)

Forest structure

Fifty-five per cent of Callitris forest (1.1 million hectares) is open forest (Figure 1). Most species of callitris are medium-sized trees, and 91 per cent of Callitris forest (1.9 million hectares) is medium height. Brush cypress pine (*C. macleayana*) can grow up to 50 metres high.

Native forests are divided into three classes based on crown cover:

- woodland forest** (20 to 50 per cent crown cover)
- open forest** (>50 to 80 per cent crown cover)
- closed forest** (>80 to 100 per cent crown cover)

and three classes based on mature tree height:

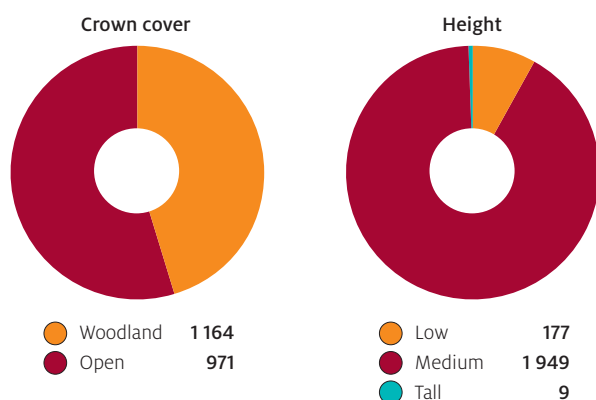
- low** (2 to 10 metres)
- medium** (>10 to 30 metres)
- tall** (>30 metres).

Uses

Some species of callitris, such as the Port Jackson pine (*C. rhomboidea*), have durable, insect-resistant wood. Callitris timber is widely used for flooring, lining boards, weatherboards, interior joinery and cabinets, and fencing poles and posts.

Resins from callitris trees have traditionally been used by Indigenous Australians as an adhesive for attaching axe heads to handles, and barbs and tips to spears.

FIGURE 1 Structure of Callitris native forest, 2013 ('000 hectares)



Source: ABARES (2016)

[Download Figure 1 data as an Excel workbook](#)



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This is one in a series of profiles on Australia's major forest types. It has been compiled using information from the Australia's State of the Forests Report series and subsequent updates. The latest report, Australia's State of the Forests Report 2013, and the profiles, are available at agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia.

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