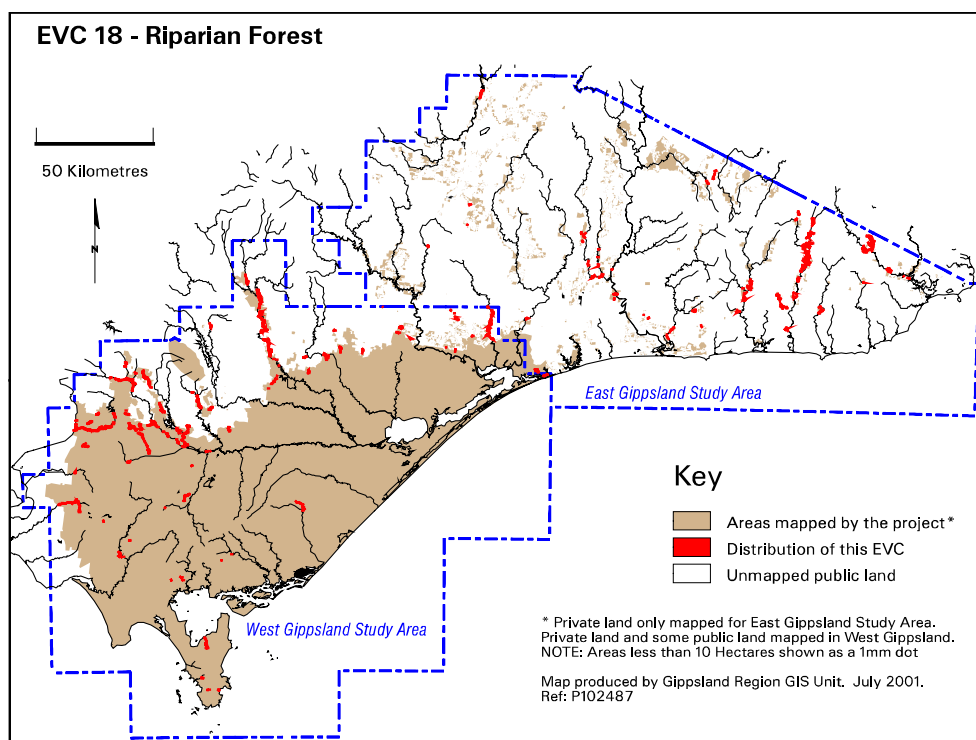


EVC 18 Riparian Forest

A tall forest widespread along rivercourses and associated alluvial terraces. The soil is derived from fertile alluvium and is subject to inundation. Dominated by tall eucalypts, but also has an open to sparse secondary tree layer of Silver Wattle and Blackwood with scattered dense patches of shrubs, ferns, grasses and herbs.

Elevation (metres above sea level)	Lowland plains and foothills
Average rainfall p.a. (mm)	700-1000
Topography	River flats and alluvial terraces
Geology	Quaternary alluvium
Soils	Deep fertile, moderately well-drained sands, loams, sandy loams
Related/adjacent EVCs/FCs	Cool Temperate Rainforest, Warm Temperate Rainforest, Wet Forest, Damp Forest, Riparian Scrub, Swampy Riparian Complex, Riparian Shrubland
Present land use	Agriculture, mining, grazing, timber harvesting, recreation
Present distribution	Labertouche Creek, Tarago River, east of Springsure Hill, Tyers Junction, Stony Creek west of Yinnar, Wilsons Promontory National Park, Macalister River, various rivers in East Gippsland
Examples of sites/quadrats/lists	Lighthouse Track, Wilsons Promontory National Park (F48838), Barrys Creek on Five Mile Rd, Wilsons Promontory National Park (U23658), Moons Road east of Buchan, Wallagaraugh River flats
Total Area (ha)/ Number of polygons	3,120/603
Group analysis no.	Not identified by 40 group analysis



Vegetation: structure/floristics:

A tall forest commonly dominated by Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis* and a range of other eucalypts such as Mountain Ash *Eucalyptus regnans* and Messmate *E. obliqua* in areas with a cool temperate climate. In East Gippsland, Gippsland Peppermint *E. croajingolensis*, River Peppermint *E. elata* and Southern Mahogany *E. botryoides* are commonly occurring species in this EVC. Scattered occurrences

of Blue Box *E. baueriana* and Coast Grey Box *E. bosistoana* are also found in the EVC. Where fire is less frequent in East Gippsland Kanooka *Tristaniopsis laurina*, Lilly Pilly *Acmena smithii* or Muttonwood *Rapanea howittiana* may be found as the climate tends to be more warm temperate in character.

Trees such as Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata* and Blackwood *A. melanoxylon* are present with an understorey dominated by species more common in Wet or Damp Forest such as Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera*, Victorian Christmas-bush *Prostanthera lasianthos*, Elderberry *Panax Polyscias sambucifolia*, and Prickly Currant-bush *Coprosma quadrifida*. Rough Tree-fern *Cyathea australis* is often present, as is Fishbone Water-fern *Blechnum nudum*, Gristle Fern *B. cartilagineum* and Common Ground-fern *Calochlaena dubia*. A herbaceous ground layer, often dominated by weeds on the alluvial terrace is common. Intact Riparian Forest is now rare in the study area due to extensive clearing for agriculture.

Comments:

As soil drainage becomes poorer, Riparian Forest merges into Riparian Scrub in lower rainfall areas or Swampy Riparian Complex in higher rainfall areas.

This description for Riparian Forest was based on the sampling sites mentioned in the above table.