

### APPENDIX III – Structural forms of Vegetation in Australia

Life Form and Height of Tallest Stratum	Projective Foliage Cover of Tallest Stratum*			
	Dense (70-100%)	Mid Dense (30-70%)	Sparse (10-30%)	Very Sparse+ (<10%)
Trees++ >30 m Trees++ 10-30 m Trees++ 5-10 m	Tall closed-forest* Closed-forest* Low-closed forest*	Tall open-forest Open-forest Low open-forest	Tall woodland\$ Woodland Low woodland	Tall open-woodland\$ Open-woodland\$ Low open-woodland
Shrubs++ 2-8 m Shrubs++ 0-2 m	Closed-scrub Closed heath	Open-scrub Open-heath	Tall shrubland Low shrubland	Tall open-shrubland Low open-shrubland\$
Hummock grasses 0-2 m	-	-	Hummock grassland	Open hummock grassland\$
Herbs (incl. Moss, ferns, hemicryptophytes, geophytes, therophytes, hydrophytes, helophytes)	Closed-herbland@ Closed-tussock grassland Closed-grassland Closed-herbfield Closed-sedgeland Closed-fernland Closed-mossland	Herbland@ Tussock grassland Grassland Herbfield Sedgeland Fernland Mossland	Open-herbland@ Open-tussock grassland Open-grassland Open-herbfield Open-sedgeland Open-fernland\$ Open-mossland\$	- - - - - - -

\* Isolated trees (emergents) may project from the canopy of some communities (Richards, Tansley, and Watt, Imp. For. Inst. Pap. No. 19, 1939, 6). In some closed-forests, emergent Araucaria, Acacia or Eucalyptus species may be so frequent that the resultant structural form may be classified better as an open forest.

+ Some ecologists prefer to ignore scattered trees and shrubs, equivalent to emergents in a predominantly grassland, heath or shrubland formation.

++ A tree is defined as a woody plant more than 5 m tall, usually with a single stem. A shrub is a woody plant less than 8 m tall, frequently with many stems arising at or near the base (slightly modified from Beadle and Costin, Proc. Linn. Soc. NSW 77, 1951, 61).

\$ These formations are rare in Australia.

@ Appropriate names for the community will depend on the nature of the dominant herb.