

## ***Allocasuarina littoralis* - Black Oak**

### **Family:**

Casuarinaceae

### **Distribution:**

Drier forests and woodlands in coastal and tableland areas of New South Wales, also Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland. In HSC; scattered in many vegetation communities but predominantly found in communities Q2 (6.6 ha), SS (4.7 ha), C (638.4 ha), E (46.5 ha) & G (657.7 ha). May form dense and dominating thickets in the absence of fire.

### **Common Name:**

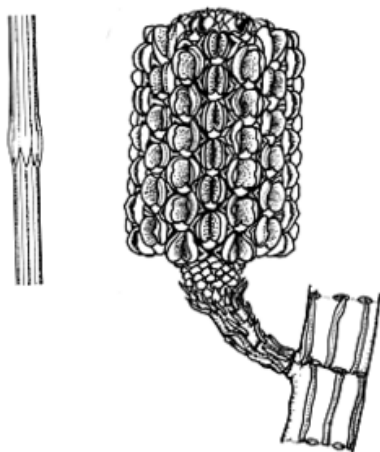
Black Oak/ Black She-oak

### **Derivation of Name:**

***Allocasuarina***; from Greek allos, different (to) casuarina, Malay word for Kasuari, referring to the similarity of the plant's foliage to Cassowary feathers. ***littoralis***; Latin, of the shore, seashore or coast.

### **Conservation Status:**

Adequately conserved in HSC.



### **Description:**

Small narrow tree between 6m and 15m high; bark persistent, rough, hard, dark grey/dark brown. Foliage is needle like and branchlets are generally upright, the photosynthetic branchlets have a tiny reduced whorled teeth leaves 6 to 8 per segment. Flowering occurs in autumn through winter, male trees turn gold when laden with pollen. Female trees only bear the "cone" like fruit after small bright red flowers. The fruit are 10 to 30mm in length and flat topped. May form dense stands in the absence of fire in bushland areas.

### **Longevity:**

Up to 50 years. Usually less, dependant on soil fertility and growing conditions. Killed by wildfire.

### **Horticultural Merit and uses:**

Rarely used in horticultural applications. Probably best suited to mass plantings to form groves. Fallen "needle" leaves produce a thick mulch which inhibits other plants growing under Black Oaks. Rarely exceeds 8m in height in cultivation. Tolerates a wide range of conditions as long as drainage is good and shade is not too heavy.

### **Fauna Value:**

Important feed tree for the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo which feeds on seeds. Small insectivorous birds regularly leaf glean foliage.







