

Approved Conservation Advice  
(s266B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Lasiopetalum rotundifolium* (Round-leaf Lasiopetalum)**

This Conservation Advice has been developed based on the best available information at the time this Conservation Advice was approved; this includes existing plans, records or management prescriptions for this species.

**Description**

*Lasiopetalum rotundifolium*, Family Sterculiaceae, also known as Round-leaf Lasiopetalum, is an erect shrub, growing to at least 60 cm tall. The branchlets contain both star-shaped and simple hairs. The lower surface of the alternate leaves, which are almost circular, have a close covering of grey, star-shaped hairs. The upper surface of these leaves is hairless. The leaves are on stalks, 10–20 mm long and have a blade 7–35 mm long and 9–30 mm wide. The deeply wrinkled blades have lobes above the point of attachment of the stalk, which gives it a heart-shape appearance. The compacted inflorescences, with a straight main axis 20–40 mm long, contain about eight flowers. One ovate bracteole is located below each flower and is quite distant from the calyx, which is pink. The calyx, 6 mm long, is divided nearly to the base into five lobes and is covered in felty hairs on the outside. There are no petals. There are five maroon anthers and the style has large, white, reflexed, star-shaped hairs. Flowering occurs from September to October (DEC, 2008).

Round-leaf Lasiopetalum is closely related to Soft-leaved Lasiopetalum (*Lasiopetalum molle*), which occurs between Perenjori and Newdegate, Western Australia, but can be distinguished from the latter by having larger, less heart-shaped leaves (Brown et al., 1998; DEC, 2008).

**Conservation Status**

Round-leaf Lasiopetalum is listed as **endangered**. This species is eligible for listing as endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) as, prior to the commencement of the EPBC Act, it was listed as endangered under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth). The species is also listed as declared rare flora under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (Western Australia).

**Distribution and Habitat**

Round-leaf Lasiopetalum is known from near Brookton, Boyagin and Narrogin in Western Australia. In the past it was collected from south of New Norcia, in an area that was most likely originally Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) woodland. The populations found near Boyagin indicate that this species is likely to be more common than previously thought.

There are six known populations of Round-leaf Lasiopetalum, with three populations divided into two subpopulations and one population divided into four subpopulations. Of the six populations, three occur in conservation estate, two on shire reserves, and one on private property and a rubbish tip. The shire reserves are used for gravel extraction and firewood collection. The largest population has an estimated 920 mature plants, recorded in 1999. There are at least 2500 mature plants known in the wild with an extent of occurrence of 520 km<sup>2</sup>. There are inadequate data to determine population or occupancy trends; however, most populations are considered healthy (DEC, 2008).

At Brookton, this species is known to grow in areas of open woodland on the slopes of hills, in gravely, brown, clayey sand (Brown et al., 1998; DEC, 2008). This species occurs within the South West and Avon (Western Australia) Natural Resource Management Regions.

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The distribution of this species is not known to overlap with any EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological community.

### **Threats**

The main potential threats to Round-leaf *Lasiopetalum* include gravel extraction, inappropriate fire regimes, firebreak maintenance, grazing, recreation, and disturbance due to firewood collection in its habitat (DEC, 2008).

### **Research Priorities**

Research priorities that would inform future regional and local priority actions include:

- Design and implement a monitoring program or, if appropriate, support and enhance existing programs.
- More precisely assess population size, distribution, ecological requirements and the relative impacts of threatening processes.
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations/occurrences/remnants.
- Undertake seed germination and/or vegetative propagation trials to determine the requirements for successful establishment.

### **Regional and Local Priority Actions**

The following regional and local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Round-leaf *Lasiopetalum*.

#### **Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

- Monitor known populations to identify key threats.
- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.
- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Ensure firebreak maintenance activities (or other infrastructure or development activities) involving substrate or vegetation disturbance in areas where Round-leaf *Lasiopetalum* occurs does not adversely impact on known populations.
- Control access routes to suitably constrain public access to known sites on public land.
- Suitably control and manage access on private land.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites, especially gravel and firewood extraction.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, management agreements and covenants on private land, and for crown and private land investigate inclusion in reserve tenure if possible.

#### **Fire**

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Round-leaf *Lasiopetalum*.
- Provide maps of known occurrences to local and state Rural Fire Services and seek inclusion of mitigative measures in bush fire risk management plans, risk register and/or operation maps.

#### **Trampling, Browsing or Grazing**

- Manage known sites to ensure appropriate grazing regimes occur.
- Manage total grazing pressure at important sites through exclusion fencing or other barriers.

#### **Conservation Information**

- Raise awareness of Round-leaf *Lasiopetalum* within the local community. The development and distribution of fact sheets may benefit the conservation of this species.

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- Establish and/or maintain partnerships with private landholders and managers of land on which populations occur to ensure appropriate conservation.

#### Enable Recovery of Additional Sites and/or Populations

- Undertake appropriate seed collection and storage.
- Investigate options for linking, enhancing or establishing additional populations.
- Implement national translocation protocols (Vallee et al., 2004) if establishing additional populations is considered necessary and feasible

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to Round-leaf *Lasiopetalum*, but highlights those that are considered to be of highest priority at the time of preparing the conservation advice.

#### **Information Sources:**

Brown, A, Thomson-Dans, C & Marchant, N (Eds) 1998, *Western Australia's Threatened Flora*, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) 2008, Records held in DEC's Declared Flora Database and rare flora files. WA Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Vallee, L, Hogbin, T, Monks, L, Makinson, B, Matthes, M & Rossetto, M 2004, *Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Canberra.