

A statement for the purposes of approved conservation advice
(s266B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)

Approved Conservation Advice for
Acacia flocktoniae

This Conservation Advice has been developed based on the best available information at the time this conservation advice was approved.

Description

Acacia flocktoniae, Family Mimosaceae, also known as Flockton Wattle, is an erect or spreading shrub growing 2–4 m high with golden yellow or creamy-white globular flower heads, appearing between June and August (Orchard & Wilson, 2001; Harden, 2002).

Conservation Status

Acacia flocktoniae is listed as **vulnerable**. This species is eligible for listing as vulnerable 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 vulnerable under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth). *Acacia flocktoniae* is also listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW).

Distribution and Habitat

Acacia flocktoniae has isolated occurrences in the central tablelands of NSW (Harden, 1991; Benson & McDougall, 1996; Orchard & Wilson, 2001) and grows in dry sclerophyll forest on low nutrient soils derived from sandstone (Harden, 1991; Tame, 1992; Orchard & Wilson, 2001). It is conserved in Blue Mountains National Park (Briggs & Leigh, 1996) and Kanangra Boyd National Park (AHD, 2008). The species occurs at an altitude of 500–1000 m above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 800–1200 mm (Benson & McDougall, 1996). Associated species include *A. stricta* and *Podolobium ilicifolium*.

The species occurs within the Hawkesbury–Nepean and Hunter–Central Rivers (NSW) Natural Resource Management Regions.

The distribution of *Acacia flocktoniae* overlaps with the following EPBC Act-listed ecological communities:

- Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest,
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland,
- Cumberland Plain Woodlands,
- Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, and
- Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone.

Threats

The main identified threats to *Acacia flocktoniae* include frequent burning (DECC, 2005b) and the invasive weed St Johns Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) (NSW NPWS, 2007).

Research Priorities

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

- Investigate optimal fire regime (DECC, 2005b), and
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations/occurrences/remnants, particularly in western Wollemi National Park (DECC, 2005b).

Regional Priority Actions

The following regional priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *Acacia flocktoniae*.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Manage threats to areas of vegetation that contain populations/occurrences/remnants of *Acacia flocktoniae*.
- Ensure chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds do not have a significant adverse impact on *Acacia flocktoniae*.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements such as the use of covenants, conservation agreements or inclusion in reserve tenure.

Invasive Weeds

- Develop and implement a management plan for the control of St Johns Wort in the local region.

Fire

- Identify appropriate intensity and interval of fire to promote seed germination.
- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for *Acacia flocktoniae*.
- Provide maps of known occurrences to local and state Rural Fire Services and seek inclusion of mitigative measures in both bush fire risk management plans, risk register and/or operation maps.

Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of *A. flocktoniae* within the local community.

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.

Local Priority Actions

The following local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *Acacia flocktoniae*.

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.
- Control access routes to suitably constrain public access to known sites on public land.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.
- Protect populations of the listed species through the development of conservation agreements and/or covenants.

Weeds

- Identify and remove weeds in the local area, which could become a threat to *A. flocktoniae*, using appropriate methods.
- Manage sites to prevent introduction of invasive weeds, which could become a threat to the species, using appropriate methods.

Fire

- Implement an appropriate fire management regime for local populations.

- Ensure regional fire plans and hazard reduction burn planning consider the location of *A. flocktoniae* sites (DECC, 2005b).

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

Existing Plans/Management Prescriptions that are Relevant to this Species

- Blue Mountains National Park Plan of Management (NSW NPWS, 2001a), Fire Management Strategy (NSW NPWS, 2004) and draft Pest Management Strategy (NSW NPWS, 2007),
- Kanangra-Boyd National Park Fire Management Strategy (NSW NPWS, 2006) and Plan of Management (NSW NPWS, 2001b),
- Private native forestry code of practice for northern NSW (DECC, 2007), and
- NSW Threatened Species Priority Action Statement for *Acacia flocktoniae* (DECC, 2005a).

Information Sources:

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