

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

Approved Conservation Advice for
***Cupaniopsis tomentella* (Boonah Tuckeroo)**

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

Cupaniopsis tomentella, Family Sapindaceae, also known as Boonah Tuckeroo, is a tree to 10 m tall. It has compound leaves with 3–4 pairs of elliptic, often serrated leaflets which are densely rusty hairy, especially when young. Flowers are white, small, 7–8 mm, in terminal panicles. The fruit are hairy, orange-yellow, 3-celled capsules to 2.5 cm long (Reynolds, 1984; Harden et al., 2006).

Conservation Status

Boonah Tuckeroo 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). Boonah Tuckeroo is also listed as vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland).

Distribution and Habitat

Boonah Tuckeroo is known only from an area between Boonah and Ipswich in south-eastern Queensland (Queensland Herbarium, 2008). It grows in vine thickets predominantly on fertile clay soils. These areas have been extensively cleared for agriculture and close settlement over the last 150 years, and the only seven known occurrences are confined to small isolated remnants on scree slopes and roadsides. All known records are from outside of conservation reserves (Queensland Herbarium, 2008). The most recent population estimate is between 120–140 individuals (Barry & Thomas, 1994). This species occurs within the South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Region.

The distribution of this species overlaps with the following EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities:

- Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions, and
- Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant).

Threats

The main identified threats to Boonah Tuckeroo are those associated with its now isolated and fragmented distribution. Smothering exotic vines including Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*), Climbing Asparagus (*Asparagus africanus*), Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) and Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*) are a major problem in these remnants, together with understorey species, Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and Coral Berry (*Rivina humilis*) (M. Thomas, 2008, pers. comm.)

The main potential threats to the species include fire incursion into scrubs owing to understorey weed encroachment. Some remnant populations occur on roadsides (Queensland Herbarium, 2008), and are therefore potentially affected by road widening and maintenance activities.

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.
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations/occurrences/remnants.

Regional and Local Priority Actions

The following regional and local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Boonah Tuckeroo.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Monitor known populations to identify key threats.
- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.
- Ensure road widening and maintenance activities involving substrate or vegetation disturbance in areas where Boonah Tuckeroo occurs do not adversely impact on known populations.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, management agreements and covenants on private land, and for crown and private land investigate inclusion in reserve tenure if possible.

Invasive Weeds

- Develop and implement a management plan for the control of invasive weeds in the region.
- Identify and remove weeds in the local area, which could become a threat to the Boonah Tuckeroo, using appropriate methods.
- Manage sites to prevent introduction of invasive weeds, which could become a threat to the species, using appropriate methods.
- Ensure chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds do not have a significant adverse impact on Boonah Tuckeroo.

Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Boonah Tuckeroo.
- 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.

Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of Boonah Tuckeroo within the local community.
- Maintain liaisons with private landholders and land managers of land on which populations occur.

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 Conservation Advice was approved by the Minister / Delegate of the Minister on: 16/12/2008

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to Boonah Tuckeroo, 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 the Species

- Weeds of National Significance: Lantana (*Lantana camara*) (ARMCANZ, 2001), and
- Management Program for Protected Plants in Queensland 2006–2010 (EPA, 2006).

These were the most current prescriptions at the time of publishing; please refer to the relevant agency's website for any updated versions.

Information Sources:

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand (ARMCANZ) 2001, *Weeds of National Significance: Lantana (Lantana camara) Strategic Plan*, National Weeds Strategy.

Barry, SJ & Thomas, GT 1994, *Threatened Vascular Rainforest Plants of South-east Queensland: A Conservation Review*, Department of Environment and Heritage, Brisbane.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2006, *Management Program for Protected Plants in Queensland 2006 – 2010*, Queensland Government, viewed 19 May 2008, <<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/sources/management-plans/flora-qld/pubs/qld-protected-plants.pdf>>.

Harden, G, McDonald, WJF & Williams JB 2006, *Rainforest Trees and Shrubs: A field guide to their identification*, Gwen Harden Publishing, Nambucca Heads.

Queensland Herbarium 2008, specimen label information, viewed 1 July 2008.

Reynolds, ST 1984, 'Notes on SAPINDACEAE, III', *Austrobaileya*, vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 29–64.

Thomas, M (Queensland Herbarium EPA). Personal communication. 24 July 2008.

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