

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Micromyrtus blakelyi***

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

**Description**

*Micromyrtus blakelyi*, Family Myrtaceae, is a low spreading shrub, growing 30–60 cm tall (Wilson, 1991). Its leaves are linear, deeply keeled, 2.5–4.5 mm long and approximately 1 mm wide. It often has a reddish tinge and produces small pink flowers in spring (James et al., 1999). Petals are broad-elliptic or obovate, 2–3 mm long and sepals (leaf-like structure at base of flower) are 1.5–2 mm long, and tinged with pink. Petals, leaves and sepals are fringed with hairs (DEC NSW, 2005).

**Conservation Status**

*Micromyrtus blakelyi* 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). The species is also listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW).

**Distribution and Habitat**

*Micromyrtus blakelyi* is restricted to areas near the Hawkesbury River, NSW, from Maroota to Cowan. It inhabits heathland where it may be locally dominant; growing in shallow, sandy, low-nutrient soils in depressions of sandstone rock platforms along ridges (Benson & McDougall, 1998). While adults are killed by high intensity fire, the species is likely to have a soil-stored seedbank and seedling recruitment has been observed after fire (Benson & McDougall, 1998).

*Micromyrtus blakelyi* occurs only within the Hawkesbury–Nepean (NSW) Natural Resource Management Region.

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

- Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest,
- Cumberland Plain Woodlands, and
- Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion.

**Threats**

The main identified threats to *Micromyrtus blakelyi* include inappropriate fire regimes; inappropriate development and ridgetop development. *M. blakelyi* has also been identified as a species that will be adversely affected by bushrock removal, which is listed as a key threatening process in NSW (NSW Scientific Committee, 2002).

**Regional and Local Priority Actions**

The following regional and local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *Micromyrtus blakelyi*.

**Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

- Manage threats to areas of vegetation and bushrock that contain populations/occurrences/remnants of *Micromyrtus blakelyi*.

- Ensure sand mining and urban development activities in areas where *M. blakelyi* occurs do not have significant adverse impacts on known populations.
- 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.
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations/occurrences/remnants.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.
- Protect populations of the listed species through the development of conservation agreements and/or covenants.

#### Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for *Micromyrtus blakelyi*.
- 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 *M. blakelyi* and the effects associated with bushrock removal 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.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to *M. blakelyi*, 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**

- NSW Priority Action Statement for *Micromyrtus blakelyi* (DEC, 2005).

#### **Information Sources:**

Benson, D & McDougall, L 1998, 'Ecology of Sydney plant species: Part 6: Dicotyledon family Myrtaceae', *Cunninghamia*, vol. 5, pp. 809-987.

Department of Environment & Conservation NSW (DEC) 2005, *Micromyrtus blakelyi* - Priority actions (NSW Threatened Species Priority Action Statement), viewed 11 March 2008,

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James, T, McDougall, L & Benson, D 1999, *Rare Bushland Plants of Western Sydney*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

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Vallee, L, Hogbin, T, Monks, L, Makinson, B, Matthes, M & Rossetto, M 2004, *Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia - Second Edition*, Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Canberra.

Wilson, PG 1991, *Micromyrtus blakelyi* J.W.Green, PlantNET - The Plant Information Network System of Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney, Australia, viewed 11 March 2008, <<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Micromyrtus~blakelyi>>.