

This Conservation Advice was approved by the Minister/ Delegate of the Minister on: 3/07/2008.

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

Approved Conservation Advice for
***Pultenaea baeuerlenii* (Budawangs Bush-pea)**

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

Description

Pultenaea baeuerlenii, Family Fabaceae, also known as Budawangs Bush-pea, is a small erect shrub growing from 60 cm to 1.5 m tall (Leigh et al., 1984; Harden, 1991; de Kok & West, 2003). The 'egg and bacon' orange and yellow pea-shaped flowers form dense clusters at the ends of branches (DECC, 2005). Flowering occurs mainly from October to December, but has also been observed in autumn (Leigh et al., 1984; de Kok & West, 2003; DECC, 2005). Fruiting occurs from January to March (Leigh et al., 1984; de Kok & West, 2003).

Conservation status

Budawangs Bush-pea 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 to 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

Budawangs Bush-pea is confined to the Budawang Range, Southern Tablelands, NSW (Harden, 1991). The species is known from only four sites in Morton and Budawang National Parks – Mt Currockbilly, Bhundoo Hill, Burrumbeet Brook and Corang Trig (DECC, 2005). This species occurs within the Southern Rivers (NSW) Natural Resource Management Region (DECC, 2005).

Budawangs Bush-pea grows in peaty sand or humus in moist heathland over sandstone at an elevation of 1100 m (Harden, 1991; de Kok & West, 2003). Associated species include *Dracophyllum secundum*, *Blandfordia nobilis*, *Bossiaea kiamensis*, *Boronia pilosa*, *B. rhomboidea*, *Baekkea linifolia*, *Eucalyptus moorei*, *E. stricta*, *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*, *Hakea microcarpa*, and *Melaleuca squarrosa* (de Kok & West, 2003).

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

- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland, and
- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands of NSW and the Australian Capital Territory.

Threats

The main identified threat to Budawangs Bush-pea is frequent fire. Given the species' restricted distribution and tendency to grow in gully heads where fire intensities are usually severe, this species could be brought to the verge of extinction should regenerating plants be killed by fire before they have time to mature and set seed (Leigh et al., 1984).

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Research Priorities

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

- Design and implement a monitoring program.
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations.
- Investigate reproductive ecology of this species and its response to fire (DECC, 2005).

Regional and Local Priority Actions

The following priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Budawang Bush-pea.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Monitor known populations to identify key threats.
- Identify sites of high conservation priority.
- Monitor sites to identify key threats or progress of recovery, particularly the burnt population near Bhundoo Hill (DECC, 2005).
- Control access routes to suitably constrain public access to known sites on public land.
- Investigate further formal conservation arrangements, such as, the use of covenants, conservation agreements or inclusion in reserve tenure, if additional populations are located.

Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Budawang Bush-pea.
- Ensure that personnel planning and undertaking hazard reduction burns are aware of the species and its habitat (DECC, 2005).
- Do not burn known sites unless absolutely necessary (wildfires excepted) or until optimum fire frequency is known (DECC, 2005).
- If burning is essential for safety, apply mosaic pattern hazard reduction techniques to ensure the same areas are not burned repeatedly (DECC, 2005).
- Following burning, protect populations (where possible) from further fires until plants have reached reproductive maturity (DECC, 2005).
- 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 registers and/or operation maps.

Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of Budawang Bush-pea 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 Budawang Bush-pea, 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

- Morton National Park and Budawang National Park Plan of Management (NSW NPWS, 2001).

This prescription was current at the time of publishing; please refer to the relevant agency's website for any updated versions.

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Information Sources:

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