

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for  
*Acacia handonis* (Hando's Wattle)**

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**

*Acacia handonis*, Family Mimosaceae, also known as Hando's Wattle and Percy Grant Wattle, is a slender shrub that grows 1–2 m tall and 1–2 m wide. The flowers are large, bright yellow and globular and appear mainly between July and September (Lithgow, 1997; Orchard & Wilson, 2001). Seed pods have an oblong shape and are up to 4 cm long and 3–4 mm wide (Orchard & Wilson, 2001) and have been observed in November (Halford, 1995).

**Conservation Status**

Hando's Wattle 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). Hando's Wattle is also listed as vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland).

**Distribution and Habitat**

Hando's Wattle was originally known from a population on a ridge within Barakula State Forest, NNE of Chinchilla (Pedley, 1981; Hando, 2007). Over the past twenty years, the species has spread over a greater area (Lithgow, 1997). In 1994, the Chinchilla population was estimated to encompass approximately 28 ha of land and contain 10 080 individuals (Halford, 1995). More recent collections have shown little change in distribution (QLD Herbarium Records, 2008). This species occurs within the Condamine (Queensland) Natural Resource Management Region.

Hando's Wattle inhabits gently undulating slopes and stony ridges with laterite soils. Associated vegetation includes open forest or woodland with varying density of understorey. Associated species include *Eucalyptus fibrosa* subsp. *nubila*, *Corymbia watsoniana* subsp. *watsoniana*, *Lysicarpus angustifolius*, and *Allocasuarina inophloia* (Halford, 1995). Other wattles growing in the area include *Acacia conferta*, *A. complanata*, *A. julifera* and *A. juncifolia* (Hando, 2007). Associated understorey species include *Dodonaea falcata*, *Boronia bipinnata*, *B. glabra*, *Cleistochloa subjuncea*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Schoenus kennyi*, *Triodia scariosa* subsp. *yelarbonensis*, and *Lomandra multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* (Halford, 1995).

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

- Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant).

**Threats**

The main potential threat to Hando's Wattle is inappropriate fire regimes (Halford, 1995).

**Research Priorities**

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

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- 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. Hando's Wattle has been grown from seeds that have been boiled and planted in sandy or clay loam. Plants have lived up to 10 years in cultivation (Halford, 1995; Hando, 2007).
- Identify appropriate intensity and interval of fire to promote seed germination.

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

The following priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Hando's Wattle.

#### **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.
- Ensure road widening and maintenance activities associated with forest operations, involving substrate or vegetation disturbance, where Hando's Wattle occurs do not adversely impact on the known population.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.
- Control access routes to suitably constrain public access to known sites on public land.
- 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 Hando's Wattle.
- 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 Hando's Wattle within the local community.

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

- Undertake appropriate seed collection and storage.
- Investigate options for 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 Hando's Wattle, 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**

- Condamine Catchment Strategic Plan (CCMA, 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:**

Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) 2001, *Condamine Catchment Strategic Plan*, viewed 12 May 2008, <[http://www.condaminecatchment.com.au/strat\\_executive.htm](http://www.condaminecatchment.com.au/strat_executive.htm)>

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Lithgow, G 1997, *Sixty Wattles of the Chinchilla and Murilla Shires*, M.G. Lithgow, Chinchilla, Queensland.

Orchard, AE & Wilson, AJG (Eds) 2001, *Flora of Australia, Volume 11A, Mimosaceae, Acacia Part 1*, ANBG, Canberra.

Pedley, L 1981, 'Further notes on Acacia in Queensland', *Austrobaileya*, vol 1, pp.339-345.

Queensland Herbarium, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) QLD, 2008, 'Acacia handonis records', Accessed 9 April 2008.

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.