

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Floydia praealta* (Ball Nut)**

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

**Description**

*Floydia praealta*, Family Proteaceae, also known as the Ball Nut, Possum Nut, Big Nut and Beefwood, is a tall tree growing to 30 m with rough, brown bark. Leaves are 7–30 cm long, 2–4.5 cm wide, tapering at the bases and rounded at the apex (Foreman, 1995). Margins are slightly wavy. The small cream coloured flowers are aggregated into confluences 7–20 cm long. The fruit is woody, globular and up to 5 cm in diameter, containing one or two seeds (Foreman, 1995).

**Conservation Status**

*Floydia praealta* 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 Schedule 2 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW), and vulnerable under Schedule 3 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland) as *Floydia praealt*.

**Distribution and Habitat**

The Ball Nut occurs in small, scattered populations from Gympie, Queensland, southwards to the Clarence River in north-east NSW, where it inhabits riverine and subtropical rainforest, usually on soils derived from basalt (DECC, 2005) or in coastal scrub (Foreman, 1995). This species occurs within the Northern Rivers (NSW), Burnett Mary and South East (Queensland) Natural Resource Management Regions.

The distribution of this species overlaps with the “White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland” EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological community.

**Threats**

The main identified threats to Ball Nut include clearing and fragmentation of habitat, habitat infestation by weeds, and fire (DECC, 2005). These threats are exacerbated by the small local populations of sparsely distributed individuals (DECC, 2005).

**Research Priorities**

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

- 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.

**Regional Priority Actions**

The following regional priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Ball Nut.

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

#### 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.
- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Ensure infrastructure or development activities (including road maintenance and widening) in areas where Ball Nut occurs do not adversely impact on known populations.

#### Invasive Weeds

- Develop and implement a plan for the control of rainforest weeds in the region.
- Ensure chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds do not have a significant adverse impact on Ball Nut.

#### Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Ball Nut.
- Protect rainforests where Ball Nut occurs from fire (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 register and/or operation maps.

#### Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of Ball Nut within the local community (DECC, 2005).

#### 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 Ball Nut.

#### Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Assist landholders in fencing paddocks where Ball Nut occurs (DECC, 2005).
- Expand and connect remaining remnants of habitat (DECC, 2005).
- Protect populations of the listed species through the development of conservation agreements and/or covenants.

#### Invasive Weeds

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

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to Ball Nut, 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 *Floydia prealta* (DECC, 2005).

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:**

Department of Environment & Climate Change New South Wales, (DECC) 2005, *Floydia prealata* - Priority actions (New South Wales Threatened Species Priority Action Statement), viewed 20 March 2008, <[http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/pas\\_profile.aspx?id=10332](http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/pas_profile.aspx?id=10332)>

Foreman, DB 1995, 'Floydia', In: Orchard, AE & McCarthy, PM (Eds.) *Flora of Australia*, ABRIS, Canberra, CSIRO, Melbourne, vol. 16 pp. 417-419.

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.

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