

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Pouteria eerwah* (Shiny-leaved Condo)**

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

**Description**

*Pouteria eerwah* (previously *Planchonella eerwah*), Family Sapotaceae, also known as Shiny-leaved Condo, Black Plum or Wild Apple, is variable in habit, ranging from a small tree to 4 m high through to a forest emergent to 40 m high. Young branchlets are greyish and hairy and exude a milky latex when cut. Leaves are egg-shaped to spatulate (spatula-shaped), 4–14 cm long, leathery and hairless with raised venation on both surfaces. The fruits are firm-fleshed, spherical, 3–6 cm long, red-purple to black, and contain three to five seeds. Flowers and fruits occur throughout the year with peak flowering from August to January (Stanley & Ross, 1986; Barry & Thomas, 1994; Harden et al., 2006).

**Conservation Status**

Shiny-leaved Condo is listed as **endangered**. This species is eligible for listing as endangered 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 endangered under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth). The species is also listed as endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland).

**Distribution and Habitat**

Shiny-leaved Condo is restricted to three areas of south-east Queensland: the Ipswich–Beaudesert area south-west of Brisbane; the Beenleigh–Ormeau–Pimpama area, south-east of Brisbane; and the Nambour–Maleny district on the Sunshine coast. The area is warm and subtropical with 60% of rain falling in the summer months. Annual rainfall is 650 mm in the drier western areas, to more than 1000 mm at higher elevations. There are seven known populations with an estimated combined population of 160 to 180 individuals (Wiley et al., 1999). One population occurring in the Nambour–Maleny district is protected in the National Park. Part of one population in the Ipswich area is protected in a Conservation Reserve (Wiley et al., 1999). This species occurs within the South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Region.

Shiny-leaved Condo occurs on slopes 80–420 m above sea level. Populations in the Ipswich–Beaudesert area occur on rocky slopes and drainage lines on a variety of soils. Populations in the Beenleigh–Ormeau–Pimpama area occur on nutrient poor soils derived from metasediments. Populations in the Nambour–Maleny area all occur on well-drained basaltic, dark sandy loams (Barry & Thomas, 1994). The populations south of Brisbane occur in Araucarian Notophyll Vine Forest and Araucarian Microphyll Vine Forest dominated by *Flindersia* species, with occasional emergent *Araucaria cunninghamii* and *Harpullia pendula*. The northern populations occur in the canopy and lower strata of remnant Complex Notophyll Vine Forest dominated by *Argyrodendron* sp. (Kin Kin W.D. Francis AQ81198), *Atalaya multiflora*, *Choricarpia subargentea*, *Excoecaria dallachyana*, and *Flindersia australis* (Barry & Thomas, 1994; Wiley et al., 1999).

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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
- Swamp Tea-tree (*Melaleuca irybana*) Forest of South-east Queensland.

### **Threats**

The main identified threats to Shiny-leaved Condoe include weeds, fire, and grazing and seed predation by insects and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) (Barry & Thomas, 1994; Wiley et al., 1999). Lantana (*Lantana camara*) invasion is the greatest threat to this species in all areas. Other weeds affecting the Sunshine Coast populations include Glycine (*Neonotonia whitii*), Corky Passionflower (*Passiflora superosa*), Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*), and exotic grasses (Wiley et al., 1999). Destruction of seedlings by fire is also a threat where weeds have increased the fire hazard (Barry & Thomas, 1994; Wiley et al., 1999).

Most populations in the Ormeau area occur in remnant vegetation as defined under the Queensland *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA, 1999) and are therefore currently protected from clearing (Environmental Protection Agency, 2007).

### **Research Priorities**

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

- Develop and implement a monitoring program.
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations.
- More precisely assess population size, distribution, ecological requirements and the relative impacts of threatening processes.
- Undertake seed germination and/or vegetative propagation trials to determine the requirements for successful establishment.
- Undertake genetic analyses to 1/ assess current gene flow (using markers and analyses capable of distinguishing population divergence on an evolutionary timescale, from that which might be due to more recent impacts), and 2/ identify populations with low genetic diversity that might benefit from artificial introduction of genetic material from other populations from which they have relatively recently diverged.

### **Regional Priority Actions**

The following regional priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Shiny-leaved Condoe.

#### **Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

- Ensure chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds do not have a significant adverse impact on Shiny-leaved Condoe.
- Ensure road widening and maintenance activities (or other infrastructure or development activities) involving substrate and vegetation disturbance in areas where Shiny-leaved Condoe occurs, do not adversely impact on known populations.

#### **Invasive Weeds**

- Develop and implement a management plan for the control of Lantana in the local region.

#### **Fire**

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Shiny-leaved Condoe that links with the weed management plan.

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- 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 the Shiny-leaved Condoe within the local community including fact sheets, talks and field days. The main interest groups are the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society, Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network, WWF Australia, Society for Growing Australian Plants, Field Naturalist Clubs, National Parks Association, Regional Botanic Gardens, regional bodies, local catchment groups and local landholders. Government interests include the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Department of Natural Resources, and south-east Queensland area local councils.

#### 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 Shiny-leaved Condoe.

#### Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.

#### Invasive Weeds

- Identify and remove weeds in the local area, which could become a threat to Shiny-leaved Condoe, using appropriate methods.
- Manage site to prevent introduction of invasive weeds, which could become a threat to Shiny-leaved Condoe, using appropriate methods.

#### Grazing and Seed Predation

- In consultation with local council and landholders, control feral pigs in the Ipswich-Beaudesert area to manage threats at known sites.
- Develop and implement a management plan for the control and eradication of feral pigs affecting the Ipswich-Beaudesert populations.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to Shiny-leaved Condoe, 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

- Threat Abatement Plan for Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition and Disease Transmission by Feral Pigs (EA, 2005).
- Draft Recovery Plan for *Pouteria eerwah* (Wiley et al., 1999).
- Weeds of National Significance: Lantana (*Lantana camara*) (ARMCANZ, 2001).

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

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### **Information Sources:**

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand (ARMCANZ) 2001, *Weeds of National Significance: Lantana (Lantana camara) Strategic Plan*, National Weeds Strategy, <<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/xbcr/dpi/IPA-Lantana-Nsplan.pdf>>.

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Environmental Protection Agency 2007, Copy of the certified regional ecosystem map for the purpose of the Vegetation Management Act 1999, online RE Maps, Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane, viewed 5 May 2008, <<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/REMAP>>.

Harden, GJ, McDonald, WJF & Williams, JB 2006, *Rainforest Trees and Shrubs, A Field Guide to their identification*, Gwen Harden Publishing, Nambucca Heads.

Stanley, TD & Ross, EM 1986, *Flora of south-eastern Queensland, Volume 2*, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Brisbane.

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.

Wiley, C, Telford, A, Suede, R, Santos, C, Pitt, P & Lawn, T 1999, *Draft Recovery Plan for Pouteria eerwah*, University of Queensland, Brisbane.