

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

Approved Conservation Advice for
***Grevillea evansiana* (Evans Grevillea)**

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

Description

Grevillea evansiana, Family Proteaceae, also known as Evans Grevillea, is a low, dense and spreading shrub, to 0.5 m high (Makinson, 2007) with white hairy stems. The leaves are elliptical to oblong and glossy green above and silver-grey underneath (Fairley, 2004). Clusters of dark-red flowers are produced between August and December, with peak flowering in September (Fairley, 2004; Makinson, 2007). White-flowered specimens have also been recorded (Fairley, 2004).

Conservation Status

Evans Grevillea 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

Evans Grevillea is endemic to eastern NSW, and occurs within the Central West and Hawkesbury–Nepean (NSW) Natural Resource Management Regions (DECC, 2005a). It is restricted to a small area east of Olinda in the Kandos-Rylestone district, mostly on the western catchment, but also extending into the Colo River catchment. Known populations occur on the western side of Wollemi National Park, Currant Mountain Gap, south of Kandos Weir, and on nearby private lands, all within the Rylstone Local Government Area (Olde & Marriott, 1995; Benson & McDougall, 2000; Makinson, 2000; NSW NPWS, 2000; DECC, 2005a).

The species inhabits dry sclerophyll forest or woodland, occasionally in swampy heath, in sandy soils, usually over Hawkesbury sandstone (DECC, 2005a). Evans Grevillea is associated with the following plant communities: Pagoda Rock Complex; Scribbly Gum - Stringybark Woodland; and Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland (Benson & Keith, 1990).

This 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 threat to Evans Grevillea is habitat disturbance and degradation resulting from unrestricted access and recreational activities within areas of known habitat (particularly at Dunns Swamp, Wollemi NP) (NSW NPWS, 2000; DECC, 2005a).

Potential threats to this species include inappropriate fire regimes and fungal pathogens (NSW NPWS, 2000; DECC, 2005a).

Research Priorities

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

- Investigation and monitoring of this species' response to fire to determine whether assisted regeneration is required (DECC, 2005b).

Regional Priority Actions

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

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Manage threats to areas of vegetation that contain populations/occurrences/remnants of Evans Grevillea.
- Ensure walking tracks, road widening and maintenance activities (or other infrastructure or development activities) do not adversely impact on known populations.
- Manage any changes to hydrology that may result in changes to water table levels, increased run-off, sedimentation or pollution.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, such as the use of covenants, conservation agreements or inclusion in reserve tenure.

Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Evans Grevillea.
- 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 Evans Grevillea within the local community.

Establishing Additional 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 Evans Grevillea.

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, particularly known populations in the vicinity of the camping and picnic area of Dunn Swamp (DECC, 2005b).
- Control access routes to suitably constrain public access to known sites on public land.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations, particularly on ridges north from Newnes to Cyrils Rock (DECC, 2005b).

Fire

- Amend existing fire management strategies within areas of potential habitat to include an appropriate fire regime (inter-fire interval of > 7 years) for this species (DECC, 2005b).

- Ensure that any personnel undertaking hazard reduction activities near known populations or habitat are aware of the fire sensitivity of this species (DECC, 2005b).

Diseases, Fungi and Parasites

- Develop and implement suitable hygiene protocols to protect outbreaks of fungal pathogens.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to Evans Grevillea, 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 Threatened Species Priority Action Statement (DECC, 2005b),
- Wollemi National Park Plan of Management (NSW NPWS, 2001), and
- Wollemi National Park Fire Management Strategy (NSW NPWS, 2006).

Information Sources:

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