

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Ozothamnus eriocephalus***

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**

*Ozothamnus eriocephalus*, Family Asteraceae, is a weakly woody shrub with fine white hairs forming a mat over the branches. Leaves are lance shaped and both surfaces are covered in a web of fine white hairs. Floral heads form dense sub-hemispherical corymbs with a dense webbing of fine hairs. Floral heads consist of about 40 bisexual florets.

This species was previously known as *Helichrysum eriocephalum* (Willis, 1952; Burbidge, 1958).

**Conservation Status**

*Ozothamnus eriocephalus* 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).

*Ozothamnus eriocephalus* is also listed as vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006* (Queensland).

**Distribution and Habitat**

*Ozothamnus eriocephalus* is known from the Bowen and Mackay area of central Queensland. This species occurs at Peases Lookout and Dick's Tableland in the Eungella National Park (NP), Sydney Heads in Homevale NP, Finch Hatton Gorge, Lake Elphinstone, Mt Abbot (two small populations), Gloucester Island and Redcliffe vale (BRI collection records, n.d.; Bean, 1994; Briggs & Leigh, 1996).

*Ozothamnus eriocephalus* grows on rocky escarpments, slopes and creek gullies in closed rainforest margins and open eucalypt forest (BRI collection records, n.d.). Plants have been reported to be growing in cultivation at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra (CHABG, 1994). This species occurs within the Mackay Whitsunday (Queensland) Natural Resource Management Region.

The distribution of this species is not known to overlap with any EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities.

**Threats**

The main potential threats to *O. eriocephalus* include changed fire regime; invasion by exotic weeds such as Lantana (*Lantana camara*); grazing pressure; and inappropriate timber harvesting (ANRA, 2007).

**Research Priorities**

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

- Design and implement a monitoring program or, if appropriate, support and enhance existing programs.

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- 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 and Local Priority Actions**

The following priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *Ozothamnus eriocephalus*.

#### 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 road widening and maintenance activities (or other infrastructure or development activities) involving substrate or vegetation disturbance in areas where *O. eriocephalus* occurs do not adversely impact on known populations.
- Control access routes to suitably constrain public access to known sites on public land.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use, including timber harvesting, at known sites.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, management agreements and covenants on private land, and for crown and private land investigate inclusion in reserve tenure if possible.

#### Invasive Weeds

- Implement a management plan for the control of Lantana in the region.
- Identify and remove weeds in the local area, which could become a threat to *O. eriocephalus*, using appropriate methods.
- Manage sites to prevent introduction of invasive weeds, which could become a threat to the species, using appropriate methods.
- Ensure chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds do not have a significant adverse impact on *Ozothamnus eriocephalus*.

#### Trampling, Browsing or Grazing

- Manage known sites to ensure appropriate grazing regimes occur.
- Prevent grazing pressure at known sites on leased crown land through exclusion fencing or other barriers.

#### Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for *O. eriocephalus*.
- Identify appropriate intensity and interval of fire to promote seed germination and/or vegetation regeneration.
- Provide maps of known occurrences to local and state Rural Fire Services and seek inclusion of mitigative measures in bush fire risk management plan(s), risk register and/or operation maps.

#### Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of *O. eriocephalus* 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.

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This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to *O. eriocephalus*, 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**

- Weeds of National Significance Lantana (*Lantana camara*) Strategic Plan (ARMCANZ, 2001).

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

### **Information Sources:**

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand (ARMCANZ) 2001, *Weeds of National Significance Lantana (Lantana camara) Strategic Plan*, National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee, Launceston.

Australian Natural Resources Atlas (ANRA) 2007, *Biodiversity Assessment – Central Mackay Coast – Species at risk and the Threatening Process*, viewed 11 June 2008, <<http://www.anra.gov.au/topics/vegetation/assessment/qld/ibra-cmc-species-threats.html>>.

Bean, AR 1994, 'An analysis of the vascular flora of Mt Abbot near Bowen, Queensland', *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland*, vol. 104, pp. 43–66.

BRI collection records (undated), Queensland Herbarium specimens.

Briggs, JD & Leigh JH 1996, *Rare or Threatened Australian plants*, Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Canberra, ACT.

Burbidge, NT 1958, 'A monographic study of *Helichrysum* subgenus *Ozothamnus* (Compositae) and of two related genera formerly included therein', *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 229–284.

Council of Head of Australian Botanic Gardens (CHABG) 1994, *Census of Plants in Botanic Gardens*, viewed 16 June 2008, <<http://www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/census/index.html>>.

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.

Willis, JH 1952, 'Notes on some Australian Compositae', *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland*, vol. 62, no. 2, pp. 101–108.