Advice from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (the Committee) on the list of Threatened Species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

1. Reason for Conservation Assessment by the Committee

This advice follows assessment of new information on:

***Ozothamnus eriocephalus* (a woody shrub)**

2. Summary of Species Details

Taxonomy	Conventionally accepted as *Ozothamnus eriocephalus* (J.H.Willis) Anderb.
State Listing Status	Listed under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as vulnerable.
Description	A weakly woody shrub to 0.6 m high, 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, and are white to mauve or bluish (Burbidge, 1958; Queensland Herbarium, 2009).
Distribution	The species is endemic to central Queensland between Mackay and Bowen (Queensland Herbarium, 2009).
Relevant Biology/Ecology	This species grows in a range of habitats, including the margins of disturbed notophyll rainforest, microphyll vine forest, tall open *Eucalyptus* forest, and on rocky ridges within scrub dominated by *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* spp (Bean, 1994; Queensland Herbarium, 2009). Flowers have been recorded from March to September; fruiting is recorded for March and July (Queensland Herbarium, 2009). Details of the ages of sexual maturity, life expectancy and natural mortality of this species are unknown. This species occurs in Homevale National Park, Eungella National Park and Gloucester Island National Park (Queensland Herbarium, 2009), though none is actively managed for the species.
Threats	
Known	There are no known current threats to this species.
Potential	The main identified potential threats to this species are inappropriate fire regimes, inappropriate grazing regimes and degradation of habitat by weeds (Pollock, 1997). Timber harvesting is no longer a threat as the timber areas where this species occurs are now national park.

3. Public Consultation

Notice of the proposed amendment was made available for public comment for 30 business days. Any comments received that are relevant to the survival of the species have been considered by the Committee.

4. How judged by the Committee in relation to the EPBC Act criteria and Regulations

Criterion 1: It has undergone, is suspected to have undergone or is likely to undergo in the immediate future a very severe, severe or substantial reduction in numbers

Not eligible

Criterion element	Evidence
Reduction in numbers	No data

Criterion 2: Its geographic distribution is precarious for the survival of the species **and** is very restricted, restricted or limited

Not eligible

Criterion element	Evidence
Geographic distribution AND Geographic distribution precarious	Limited – The extent of occurrence is 14 787 km^2 and the area of occupancy is unknown (Queensland Herbarium, 2009). Insufficient data – This species is known from only nine locations, however, it is not considered to be severely fragmented. As there are no data to indicate population trends, extreme fluctuations or continuing decline, there are insufficient data to judge the precariousness of this species distribution.

Criterion 3: The estimated total number of mature individuals is very low, low or limited; **and either**

(a) evidence suggests that the number will continue to decline at a very high, high or substantial rate; **or**

(b) the number is likely to continue to decline **and** its geographic distribution is precarious for its survival

Not eligible

Criterion element	Evidence
Total no. of mature individuals AND Continued rate of decline	Insufficient data – Total population is unknown. Labels of herbarium records include abundance measures of ‘common’, ‘occasional’ and ‘only one plant seen’ (Queensland Herbarium, 2009). No data
OR	
Total no. of mature individuals AND Continued decline likely AND Geographic distribution precarious	Insufficient data – Total population is unknown. Labels of herbarium records include abundance measures of ‘common’, ‘occasional’ and ‘only one plant seen’ (Queensland Herbarium, 2009). No data Insufficient data – See Criterion 2.

Criterion 4: The estimated total number of mature individuals is extremely low, very low or low

Not eligible

Criterion element	Evidence
Total no. of mature individuals	Insufficient data – Total population is unknown. Labels of herbarium records include abundance measures of 'common', 'occasional' and 'only one plant seen' (Queensland Herbarium, 2009).

Criterion 5: Probability of extinction in the wild that is at least

(a) 50% in the immediate future; or

(b) 20% in the near future; or

(c) 10% in the medium-term future

Not eligible

Criterion element	Evidence
Probability of extinction in the wild	No data

5. Recommendations

Although there are insufficient data to assess the species against the criteria, the Committee recommends a precautionary approach be applied and hence that **no amendment** be made to the list referred to in section 178 of the EPBC Act and that ***Ozothamnus eriocephalus*** remains eligible for inclusion in the **vulnerable** category of the list.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee

2 December 2010

6. References cited in the advice

Anderberg AA (1991). Taxonomy and Phylogeny of the Tribe Gnaphalieae (Asteraceae). Opera Botanica 104: 89.

Bean AR (1994). An analysis of the vascular flora of Mt Abbot near Bowen, Queensland. Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland 104: 43–66.

Burbidge NT (1958). A monographic study of *Helichrysum* subgenus *Ozothamnus* (Compositae) and of two related genera formerly included therein. Australian Journal of Botany 6(3): 229–284.

Pollock AB (1997). Species Management Profile for *Ozothamnus eriocephalus* (Asteraceae). Department of Natural Resources. Queensland.

Queensland Herbarium (2009). *Ozothamnus eriocephalus* specimen label information viewed 18 September 2009.