

**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 provided on:

***Eucalyptus robertsonii* subsp. *hemisphaerica* (Robertson's peppermint)**

**2. Summary of Species Details**

<b>Taxonomy</b>	Conventionally accepted as <i>Eucalyptus robertsonii</i> subsp. <i>hemisphaerica</i> (CHAH, 2005).
<b>State Listing Status</b>	Listed as vulnerable in New South Wales under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> .
<b>Description</b>	The species forms a tree to 30 m high with a grey to grey-brown, shortly fibrous bark persistent on trunk and larger branches or throughout, shedding in long ribbons (Benson and McDougall, 1998). Juvenile leaves are opposite, lanceolate (lance-shaped), dull grey-green, and adult leaves are alternate, narrow-lanceolate, dull grey-green and flower heads are on a cylindrical stem and contain more than 11 flowers (Harden, 1991).
<b>Distribution</b>	The species occurs east and south-east of Bathurst and Orange, New South Wales (DECC, 2005).
<b>Relevant Biology/Ecology</b>	Robertson's peppermint is found in closed grassy woodland in locally sheltered sites (Johnson and Hill, 1990). It is found on lighter soils, often on granite or quartzite, with low to medium nutrients (Benson and McDougall, 1998). Flowering period is February to March. Seed is dispersed locally by wind or gravity, and there is no dormancy mechanism and plants resprout from epicormic buds after fire (DECC, 2005).
<b>Threats</b>	
<i>Known</i>	Senescence and lack of regeneration may be threatening processes, especially as older even-aged stands die off with no recruitment of juveniles (DECC, 2005).  Clearing – existing populations are localised and under some threat from pastoral activity and localised disturbances such as clearing, logging and erosion (DECC, 2005).  Trampling, browsing or grazing by stock (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2008)
<i>Potential</i>	Potential threats include lack of regeneration and inappropriate fire regimes (DECC, 2005).

**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	Insufficient data – Extent of occurrence and area of occupancy is unknown.  Yes – The species' distribution is precarious as it exists at a limited location and is inferred and or projected to decline in area of occupancy and number of mature individuals as a result of clearing. Existing populations are localised and under some threat from pastoral activity and localised disturbances such as clearing, logging and erosion (DECC, 2005).

**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**

Total no. of mature individuals AND Continued decline likely AND Geographic distribution precarious	Insufficient data – There are 15 known point records of this species (NSW Government, 2005).  Insufficient data  Yes – The species distribution is precarious as it exists at a limited location and is inferred and or projected to decline in area of occupancy and number of mature individuals as a result of clearing. Existing populations are localised and under some threat from pastoral activity and localised disturbances such as clearing, logging and erosion (DECC, 2005).
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**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 – There are 15 known point records of this species (NSW Government, 2005).

**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. Recommendation

The Committee recommends that **no amendment** be made to the list of threatened species referred to in section 178 of the EPBC Act and that *Eucalyptus robertsonii* subsp. *hemisphaerica* remains eligible for inclusion in the **vulnerable** category of the list.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee

3 December 2009

## 6. References cited in the advice.

Benson D and McDougall L (1998). Ecology of Sydney plant species: Part 6 Dicotyledon family Myrtaceae. *Cunninghamia*, vol. 5, pp. 809-987.

Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria (CHAH) (2005). Australian Plant Census.

Available on the Internet at: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/chah/apc/>

Department of the Environment and Climate Change (DECC) NSW (2005). Threatened Species Information Robertson's Peppermint – profile

Viewed: 26 March 2008

Available on the Internet at:

<http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/profile.aspx?id=10311>

Harden GJ (Ed.) (1991). *Flora of New South Wales, Volume Two*, University of NSW Press, Kensington, NSW.

Johnson LAS and Hill KD (1990). New taxa and combinations in *Eucalyptus* and *Angophora* (Myrtaceae). *Telopea*, vol. 4, no. 1.

New South Wales Government (2005). BioNet database.

Available on the Internet at: [http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/BioNet.cfm?is\\_ie5up](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/BioNet.cfm?is_ie5up)

Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2008). Commonwealth Conservation Advice on *Eucalyptus robertsonii* subsp. *hemisphaerica*. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.