

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

Approved Conservation Advice for
Corymbia leptoloma

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

Corymbia leptoloma, Family Myrtaceae, previously known as *Eucalyptus leptoloma*, is a medium sized tree growing to 20 m high. The bark is rough throughout, flaky, somewhat tessellated and yellow-grey in colour. Small branches are smooth-barked. Adult leaves are lance-shaped, 25–40 mm wide, glossy, bright green on the upper surface, and conspicuously paler below. Flowers are formed in terminal clusters. Flower buds are in groups (umbels) of seven, shortly stalked and egg-shaped, and 6–7 mm long when mature. The fruit is truncate-globose, 8–11 mm long and wide, with three cavities, and valves are deeply enclosed (Brooker & Bean, 1991; Hill & Johnson, 1995; Brooker & Kleinig, 2004). Flowering time is unknown.

The related *C. leichhardtii* sometimes occurs in the same vicinity and can be distinguished from *C. leptoloma* by dull leaves that are a similar colour on both sides (CPBR, 2006).

Conservation Status

Corymbia leptoloma 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 *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland).

Distribution and Habitat

Corymbia leptoloma is known only from a small area north-west of Townsville, Queensland. The best known population occurs along the Paluma–Hidden Valley road and two additional populations were discovered in 2002 (Queensland Herbarium, 2008). The total number of plants is unknown. This species occurs at the boundary between the Burdekin and Wet Tropics (Queensland) Natural Resource Management Regions.

The species grows in wet sclerophyll forest in association with Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*) and Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) in gullies or on hill slopes (Brooker & Bean, 1991). It occurs in coarse sandy soils derived from granite (Queensland Herbarium, 2008). All populations occur in areas of remnant vegetation (EPA, 2008) as defined under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Queensland) and are therefore protected from broad-scale clearing.

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

Threats

The main identified threats to *Corymbia leptoloma* are the destruction of habitat for infrastructure, agriculture or mining; and disturbance of habitat by timber harvesting (Halford, 1997).

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The main potential threats to *C. leptoloma* include road widening and maintenance activities along the Paluma–Hidden Valley road. This species is potentially affected by altered fire regimes (Calvert, Lokkers & Cumming, 2005).

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.
- 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.
- Determine fire regime requirements for *C. leptoloma* and associated habitat.

Regional and Local Priority Actions

The following regional and local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *Corymbia leptoloma*.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Monitor known populations to identify key threats.
- Manage threats to areas of vegetation that contain populations.
- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites, especially agricultural and mining activities.
- Ensure road widening and maintenance, infrastructure and development activities involving substrate or vegetation disturbance in areas along the Paluma–Hidden Valley road where *C. leptoloma* occurs do not adversely impact on known populations.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, management agreements and covenants on private land, and for crown and private land investigate inclusion in reserve tenure if possible.

Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of *C. leptoloma* within the local community, particularly the mining industry, local council and local landholders or custodians.

Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for *C. leptoloma*.
- 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.

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.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to *Corymbia leptoloma*, but highlights those that are considered to be of highest priority at the time of preparing the conservation advice.

Information Sources:

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