

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

Approved Conservation Advice for
***Pterostylis ziegeleri* (Cape Portland Greenhood)**

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

Description

Pterostylis ziegeleri, Family Orchidaceae, also known as the Cape Portland Greenhood and Grassland Greenhood is a terrestrial orchid with a basal rosette of dark-green, oval leaves that produces a flowering stem with several small, green and white hooded flowers.

Conservation Status

Cape Portland Greenhood 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 it has a limited geographic distribution and is subject to ongoing threats (TSSC, 2006).

The species is also listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (Tasmania).

Distribution and Habitat

Cape Portland Greenhood is known from 19 subpopulations that are widely located in the Midlands and near-coastal areas of the northwest, north, east and southeast of the State. In the Midlands it occurs in *Themeda triandra* native grassland and grassy woodland while, in coastal areas, it occurs on the slopes of low stabilised sand dunes and in grassy dune swales. The total population of the Cape Portland Greenhood is estimated to be 1500 to 1600 mature individuals (Threatened Species Section, DPIW, unpublished data 2006).

Two previously known subpopulations of Cape Portland Greenhood are now presumed to be extinct and others have not been observed since the 1970s/1980s (TSSC, 2006; Threatened Species Section, DPIW, unpublished data 2006). The species' extent of occurrence of is estimated to be 43 000 km² and its area of occupancy is 0.07-0.08 km² (Threatened Species Section, DPIW, unpublished data 2006). This species occurs within the North-west, North and South Tasmania Natural Resource Management Regions.

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

Threats

The main identified threats to Cape Portland Greenhood are land clearing for agriculture or development, application of fertilisers and inappropriate fire or grazing/slashing regimes (Threatened Species Section, DPIW, unpublished data 2006). The latter threats may impact on the species directly, e.g. the destruction of flowers and fruits by slashing. The threats may also impact on the species by altering the quality of the native grassland habitat it occupies.

Research Priorities

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

- Design and implement a monitoring program to identify any changes in threats and numbers of individuals.

Regional Priority Actions

The following regional priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Cape Portland Greenhood.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Protect areas of native vegetation, which contain populations of Cape Portland Greenhood or which could support populations in the future.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, management agreements and covenants on private land, and for crown and private land investigate inclusion in reserve tenure if possible.

Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Cape Portland Greenhood.

Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of Cape Portland Greenhood within the local community.
- Investigate options for establishing additional populations.

Local Priority Actions

The following local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Cape Portland Greenhood.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Suitably control and manage access on private land.
- Fence known sites on private property to protect the species from trampling by domestic livestock.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.

Trampling, Browsing or Grazing

- Manage known sites on private property to ensure appropriate sheep grazing regimes are conducted.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to Cape Portland Greenhood, 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

- Flora Recovery Plan: Tasmanian Threatened Orchids 2006-2010 (Threatened Species Section, 2006).
- Tasmanian Native Grasslands Communities Recovery Plan 2005-2009 (Threatened Species Section, 2005).

These prescriptions were current at the time of publishing; please refer to the relevant agency's website for any updated versions.

Information Sources:

Threatened Species Section (2005). Tasmanian Native Grasslands Communities Recovery Plan 2005-2009 Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

Threatened Species Section (2006). Flora Recovery Plan: Tasmanian Threatened Orchids 2006-2010. Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

This conservation advice was approved by the Minister on: 14 November 2008

Threatened Species Section (2006). Unpublished survey data for *Pterostylis ziegeleri* syn. *P. cynocephala*. Held by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water, Hobart.

TSSC 2006 (Threatened Species Scientific Committee) (2006). Listing advice for *Pterostylis ziegeleri* (Cape Portland Greenhood).