

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

Approved Conservation Advice for
***Sagina diemensis* (Pearlwort)**

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

Description

Sagina diemensis, Family Caryophyllaceae, also known as the Pearlwort is a low, cushion-forming perennial herb with small white flowers that grows on outcrops or ledges of dolomite.

Conservation Status

Pearlwort is listed as **endangered**. This species is eligible for listing as endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) as its geographic distribution is restricted and precarious for its survival and the total number of mature individuals is estimated to be very low (TSSC, 2006).

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

Distribution and Habitat

Pearlwort is known from two locations: near Mt Anne and the Weld River within the Southwest National Park, a remote part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The species' extent of occurrence and area of occupancy are estimated to be 5 km² and less than 0.001 km², respectively (Threatened Species Section, DPIW 2006). The known population of Pearlwort is fragmented and occurs as two subpopulations located about 9 km apart. When unsurveyed suitable habitat and the continued survival of immature plants are taken into account, the species' population is likely to number between 60 and 200 plants (TSSC, 2006). This species occurs within the South Tasmania 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 identified threats to Pearlwort are trampling by bushwalkers (Threatened Species Section, DPIW 2006).

The main potential threats to Pearlwort include impacts of fire in dry periods and climate change. The species' localised distribution, also exposes it to local extinctions due to unforeseen human activities or stochastic events (Threatened Species Section, DPIW 2006).

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 Pearlwort.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Protect areas of native vegetation, which contain populations of the species or which could support populations in the future.

Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Pearlwort.

Enable Recovery of Additional Sites and/or Populations

- Undertake appropriate seed and germplasm collection and storage.

Local Priority Actions

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

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat or potential habitat to locate any additional populations

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit Pearlwort, 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

- Draft Flora Recovery Plan: Alpine Karst Flora: Hill Oreopranthera, *Oreopranthera petalifera* and Pearlwort, *Sagina diemensis* (Threatened Species Section, 2006).

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 (2006). Draft Flora Recovery Plan: Alpine karst flora: Hill oreopranthera, *Oreopranthera petalifera* and pearlwort, *Sagina diemensis* 2006–2010. Department of Primary Industries and Water, Hobart.

Threatened Species Section (2006). Unpublished survey data for *Sagina diemensis*. Held by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water, Hobart.

TSSC 2006 (Threatened Species Scientific Committee) (2006). Listing advice for *Sagina diemensis* (Pearlwort).