

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Craspedia preminghana* (Preminghana Billybutton)**

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**

*Craspedia preminghana*, Family Asteraceae, also known as Preminghana Billybutton, is a herb with one to three stems growing to 36 cm tall. The basal leaves have a distinct lemon-mint smell when crushed. Leaves are 13–20 cm long, 2–3.4 cm wide, with a dull green upper surface, light green lower surface, and are covered by scattered hairs (multiseptate hairs and stalked glandular hairs) on both surfaces. The flowers are honey-scented and form creamy white spherical compound heads 25–35 mm in diameter (Rozeffelds, 2002).

**Conservation Status**

Preminghana Billybutton 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, in 2006, the Minister considered the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's (TSSC) advice under section 189 of the EPBC Act and amended the list under section 184 to include Preminghana Billybutton. The TSSC determined that this species met criterion 4 of their eligibility criteria (TSSC, 2004). Preminghana Billybutton is also listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (Tasmania).

**Distribution and Habitat**

Preminghana Billybutton is known from the type locality at Preminghana, in north-west Tasmania. This species occurs on Mt Cameron West on land managed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council (DPIWE, 2004). Preminghana is the Aboriginal name for this site and the surrounding area. The number of plants within the population has been difficult to ascertain due to steep slopes, but is estimated to be fewer than 200 (Rozeffelds, 2002). Recent surveys of suitable habitat, undertaken during the flowering season were unable to find any other populations (TSSC, 2004). Ex-situ plants are being cultivated at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (TSSC, 2004).

Preminghana Billybutton occurs on steep basalt cliffs with coastal vegetation including *Correa backhousiana*, *Alyxia buxifolia* and *Urtica incise*. This species occurs within the North West (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 potential threats to Preminghana Billybutton include inappropriate fire regimes; extinction from stochastic events due to the small population size; and direct damage to its cliff face habitat. The species is thought to be protected from grazing, which is a threat to other *Craspedia* species, due to the steep slopes of its habitat (DPIWE, 2004; TSSC, 2004).

### **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, fire ecology, ecological requirements and the relative impacts of threatening processes.
- Ensure the plan of management under development for Preminghana Indigenous Protected Area (Cobb, 2007) has appropriate management actions for *C. preminhana* and other threatened flora at the site.

### **Regional and Local Priority Actions**

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

#### Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Monitor the known population to identify key threats.
- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.
- Ensure maintenance activities (or other infrastructure or development activities) involving substrate or vegetation disturbance in the area where the Preminghana Billybutton occurs do not adversely affect known populations.
- Control access routes to suitably constrain public access to known site.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at the known site.

#### Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for Preminghana Billybutton.
- 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.

#### Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of the Preminghana Billybutton within the local community, particularly local indigenous groups and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council.

#### 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 Preminghana Billybutton, but highlights those that are considered to be of highest priority at the time of preparing the conservation advice.

### **Information Sources:**

Cobb, J (Assistant Minister for the Environment and Water Resources) 2007, *\$3.5 Million to Protect Australia's Indigenous Heritage*, media release, Parliament House, Canberra, 20 July, viewed 13 May, 2008, <[http://www.johncobb.com.au/downloads/MR%20250707%20\\$3.5%20Million%20to%20protect%20Australias%20Indigenous%20Heritage.doc](http://www.johncobb.com.au/downloads/MR%20250707%20$3.5%20Million%20to%20protect%20Australias%20Indigenous%20Heritage.doc)>

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) 2004, *Threatened Flora of Tasmania - Craspedia preminghana Notesheet*, viewed 13 May 2008, <[http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/attachments/sska-72y8ye/\\$file/craspedia%20preminghana.pdf](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/attachments/sska-72y8ye/$file/craspedia%20preminghana.pdf)>

This Conservation Advice was approved by the Minister / Delegate of the Minister on:  
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Rozeffelds, AC 2002, 'A new species and new combination in *Craspedia* (Asteraceae) from Tasmania', *Telopea*, vol. 9, no. 4, pp. 813-819.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) 2004, *Commonwealth Listing Advice on Craspedia preminghana*, Department of Environment, Water, Heritage, and the Arts, viewed 13 May 2008, <<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/c-preminghana.html>>

Vallee, L, Hogbin, T, Monks, L, Makinson, B, Matthes, M & Rossetto, M 2004, *Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Canberra.