

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Bertya granitica* (A Shrub)**

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

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**

*Bertya granitica*, Family Euphorbiaceae, is a shrub growing up to 1 m in height. It has resinous young growth and flower buds. Leaves are alternate, linear, bright green on the upper surface which is strongly recurved, concealing a white densely haired lower surface. Separate male and female flowers are usually single in the upper axis of the leaves. Ovoid brown capsule fruit usually contain a single seed (Leverington et al., 2006).

**Conservation Status**

*Bertya granitica* 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, prior to the commencement of the EPBC Act, it was listed under its previous name, *Bertya* sp. Berron Holding (P.I.Forster 5753), as endangered under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth). *Bertya granitica* is also listed as endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland).

**Distribution and Habitat**

*Bertya granitica* is known from Beeron National Park, south of Mundubbera in the Burnett district, south-eastern Queensland on a property formerly used for grazing. Only three populations, with a total of 40 individual plants, are known (Leverington et al., 2006). The species has a range of approximately 8 km<sup>2</sup> and an area of occupancy of less than 1 km<sup>2</sup>.

Habitat of *Bertya granitica* is shallow, sandy soils on exposed granite outcrops (Halford and Henderson, 2002). Surrounding vegetation is predominantly open forest or woodland with a sparse shrub layer (Leverington et al., 2006). This species occurs within the Brigalow Belt Bioregion and the Fitzroy Natural Resource Management Region.

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

**Threats**

*Bertya granitica* occurs in a rugged, remote locality and is protected from disturbance and soil degradation. A potential threat to the species is inappropriate fire regimes (Leverington et al., 2006). Although fire can cause the death of individual plants in fire-adapted native species, populations may require disturbance before senescence reduces seed production. Fire can provide this disturbance. However a fuel load build-up sufficient to carry a fire across the granite areas where *Bertya granitica* occurs can take up to five years, limiting the efficiency of fire as a propagation tool (Leverington et al., 2006).

**Research Priorities**

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

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

- Undertake seed germination and/or vegetative propagation trials to determine the requirements for successful establishment.
- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.

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

The following priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *Bertya granitica*.

#### Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for the habitat of *Bertya granitica*.
- Implement an appropriate fire management regime for local populations.

#### Enable Recovery of Additional Sites and/or Populations

- 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.

#### Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of *Bertya granitica* within the local community.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to *Bertya granitica*, but highlights those that are considered to be of highest priority at the time of preparing the Conservation Advice.

### **Information Sources:**

Leverington A, Edgar R and Gordon G (2006). Draft Multi-species recovery plan for *Acacia eremophiloides*, *Acacia grandifolia*, *Acacia porcata*, *Bertya granitica* and *Newcastelia velutina*. Report to the Department of Environment and Heritage, Canberra. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane.

Halford DA and Henderson RJF (2002). Studies in Euphorbiaceae A.L.Juss. sens.lat. 3. A revision of *Bertya* Planch. (Ricinocarpeae Mull.Arg., Bertyinae Mull.Arg.). *Austrobaileya* 6(2):187-245.

Vallee L, Hogbin T, Monks L, Makinson B, Matthes M and Rossetto M (2004). Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia - Second Edition, Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Canberra.