

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Prasophyllum crebriflorum* (Crowded Leek-orchid)**

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

**Description**

*Prasophyllum crebriflorum*, commonly known as the Crowded Leek-orchid, is a small fleshy terrestrial orchid with a single green onion-like leaf which grows to 26 cm long. The flowering stem emerges from the end of the leaf and has a spike of crowded, widely opening reddish-brown flowers. Flowering occurs in late November and December.

**Conservation Status**

The Crowded Leek-orchid is eligible for listing as **endangered** under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) because its numbers are very low and its geographic distribution is restricted and precarious for its survival. The Crowded Leek-orchid is not currently listed under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, however the Tasmanian government is preparing to list it as **endangered**.

**Distribution and Habitat**

The Crowded Leek-orchid is endemic to north-western Tasmania, where it is known from two subpopulations, 2.7 km apart, in the Surrey Hills area to the southeast of Hellyer Gorge (North West NRM region). The estimated total number of mature individuals of the Crowded Leek-orchid is between 125 and 135 mature individuals.

**Threats**

Threats to the Crowded Leek-orchid include inappropriate fire frequencies, land clearance and conversion of the species' montane grassland habitat. In addition, at least some of the native grasslands in the key Surrey Hills area are known to have been aerially fertilised to improve grass quality (for cattle grazing) in the post-1950s period, and have also been subjected to regular spring burns (Craven, 1998).

**Regional Priority Actions**

The local priority recovery and threat abatement actions for this species are identified below:

**Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

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

**Invasive Weeds**

- Ensure chemicals used to control weeds do not impact on the species.

**Establishing Additional Populations**

- Investigate options for establishing additional subpopulations.
- Undertake seed germination and/or vegetative propagation trials to determine the requirements for successful establishment, including mycorrhizal association trials.

## **Local Priority Actions**

The local priority recovery and threat abatement actions for this species are identified below:

### **Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

- Monitor known sites to identify any changes in threats or numbers of individuals.
- Undertake surveys of suitable habitat or potentially suitable habitat to locate any additional subpopulations.
- Encourage land management activities that benefit the species.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, such as covenants or inclusion in reserve tenure, for the subpopulations not currently reserved.

### **Fire**

- Identify appropriate intensity and interval of fire to promote seed germination.

*This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to the Crowded Leek-orchid 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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