

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

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Prasophyllum taphanyx* (Graveside Leek-orchid)**

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

**Description**

*Prasophyllum taphanyx*, commonly known as the Graveside Leek-orchid, is a small fleshy terrestrial orchid with a single green onion-like leaf up to 30 cm long. It is distinguished from other Tasmanian Leek-orchids by its tiny flowers which are light green with pinkish-purple markings and are strongly scented.

**Conservation Status**

The Graveside Leek-orchid is listed as **critically endangered**. This species is eligible for listing as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) because the very restricted geographic distribution of the Graveside Leek-orchid and the nature of the threats to the species and its habitat are precarious for the survival of the species, and the number of mature flowering plants is very low and likely to continue to decline. The species is also listed as **endangered** under the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, which is the highest category of threat under the Tasmanian legislation.

**Distribution and Habitat**

The Graveside Leek-orchid occurs as a single population in the Northern Midlands region. It grows in native grassland dominated by Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and Spear Grasses (*Austrostipa* spp.) on well drained basaltic loams. The Graveside Leek-orchid occurs within the North (Tasmanian) Natural Resource Management Region.

**Threats**

The main identified threats to the Graveside Leek-orchid include land clearing and conversion of native grasslands in Tasmania's Midlands exotic pasture since European settlement.

The main potential threats to the Graveside Leek-orchid include weed invasion, off-target herbicide impact, changes to the slashing/mowing regime, damage by machinery, changes in fire frequency and fertilizer application.

**Regional Priority Actions**

The following regional actions can be done to stop the decline or support the recovery of the Graveside Leek-orchid:

**Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

- Protect areas of native vegetation which contain populations of the species or which could support populations in the future.
- Develop and implement a management plan for the control of Hawthorn, Briar Rose, Canary Broom, Blue Periwinkle and Elm in the local region.

**Establishing Additional Populations**

- Investigate options for establishing additional populations.
- Undertake appropriate seed collection and storage for future planting.
- Undertake seed germination and/or vegetative propagation trials to determine the requirements for successful establishment, including mycorrhizal association trials.

## **Local Priority Actions**

The following local actions can be done to stop the decline or support the recovery of the Graveside Leek-orchid:

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

- Monitor the known site during spring (usually mid October to early November) to identify any changes in number of individuals.
- Develop and implement a suitable slashing/mowing management strategy for the species.
- Prevent damage by digging machinery and off-target herbicides.
- Avoid the use of fertilisers.
- Develop and implement voluntary conservation arrangements.

### **Invasive Weeds**

- Undertake weeding of the known site to reduce or remove Hawthorn, Briar Rose, Canary Broom, Blue Periwinkle and Elm.
- Identify and remove other weeds which could become a threat to the species.

### **Fire**

- Prevent inappropriate build up of woody or herbaceous debris, which could act as fuel for a potential fire.
- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for the species.

## **Existing Plans Relevant to the Species**

Tasmanian Orchid Recovery Plan.

*This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to the Graveside 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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