

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

Approved Conservation Advice for ***Notelaea ipsviciensis* (Cooneana Olive)**

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

Description

Notelaea ipsviciensis, also known as the Cooneana Olive, is a small multi-stemmed evergreen shrub growing to 1–2 m in height. It is slow-growing, forming large underground lignotubers. It produces very small cream-yellow flowers and its fruit is small (up to 10 mm wide), purple and fleshy, surrounding one seed.

Conservation Status

The Cooneana Olive 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:

- it has a very restricted geographic distribution of less than 2 km², which is precarious for the survival of the species
- the total number of mature individuals of the species is very low, evidence suggests the number is likely to continue to decline, and the species' geographic distribution is precarious for its survival
- it is now comprised of 17 individuals in three sub-populations which are at risk from a number of threats.

The species is currently not listed under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Distribution and Habitat

The Cooneana Olive is known from only three closely clustered sub-populations in the Ipswich area of southern Queensland. Total extent of occurrence is less than 2 km², and total number of specimens is 17 (all mature). The Cooneana Olive grows as an understorey plant in open woodlands, and is primarily associated with eucalypt-dominated dry sclerophyll communities situated on poor, sandstone-based soils (Lock et al., 2004; Beyleveld, 2006, 2007). This species occurs within the South-East Queensland Natural Resource Management Region.

Threats

The main identified threats to the Cooneana Olive include gross land disturbance due to open cut coal mining and clay extraction, particularly the dumping of the rock and soil overlying coal seams ("overburden dumping"), exotic weed invasion, inappropriate fire regimes (chiefly excessive frequency of fire) and road building (Lock et al., 2004; Beyleveld, 2006, 2007).

The main potential threats to the Cooneana Olive include general urbanisation of the region, insect pests, pathogens including the exotic *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, grazing, theft and vandalism.

Research Priorities

Research priorities that would inform future local priority actions include:

- the reproductive biology of the species, including pollination, dispersal and recruitment.
- genetic studies to determine the taxonomic relationship between three co-occurring species (Cooneana Olive (*Notelaea ipsviciensis*), Lloyd's Olive (*N. lloydii*) and Netted Mock-Olive (*N. ovata*) and identify the number of individuals.

Priority Actions

The following actions can be done to stop the decline or support the recovery of the Cooneana Olive:

Habitat Loss & Loss of Individuals/Populations

- Manage mining and clay extraction activities (including overburden dumping) and road construction activities to prevent loss of further habitat/individuals/populations.
- Protect populations of the listed species through the development of conservation agreements and/or covenants.
- Manage public access to known sites on public land.

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.

Invasive Weeds

- Identify and remove weeds in the local area, which are a threat to the Cooneana Olive, using appropriate methods.

Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for the Cooneana Olive.
- Identify appropriate intensity and interval of fire to promote seed germination.
- Provide maps of known occurrences to local and state rural fire services and seek inclusion of mitigative measures in bush fire risk management plan(s), risk register/s and/or operation maps.

Diseases, Fungi and Parasites

- Implement suitable hygiene protocols to protect known populations from outbreaks of dieback caused by the exotic pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to the Cooneana Olive, 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

Cooneana Olive (*Notelaea ipsviciensis*) — An independent conservation project for one of Australia's most endangered plants. (2007). Greening Australia Queensland and Queensland Department of Main Roads.

Recovery Plan for *Notelaea ipsviciensis* (Cooneana Olive). (2004). University of Queensland.

Information Sources:

Beyleveld, L. (2006). The Cooneana Olive: an Australian plant on the brink of extinction. Presented paper, Veg Futures Conference, March 2006.

Beyleveld, L. (2007). Cooneana Olive (*Notelaea ipsviciensis*) — An independent conservation project for one of Australia's most endangered plants. Greening Australia Queensland and Queensland Department of Main Roads.

Lock, K., Stibbard, J., Cheney, A., Benson, G. and Forsyth, B. (2004). Recovery Plan for *Notelaea ipsviciensis* (Cooneana Olive). University of Queensland.

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