

# Kamballup banksia

E n d a n g e r e d F l o r a o f W e s t e r n A u s t r a l i a

**If you think you've seen this plant, please call the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Albany District on (08) 9842 4500.**

Commonly known as Kamballup banksia, *Banksia ionthocarpa* subsp. *ionthocarpa* is a prostrate shrub up to 60 cm tall, that produces attractive, pale yellow flowerheads in October. Its name is derived from the Greek *ionthas* (shaggy) and *carpos* (a fruit), referring to the tuft of hairs that is found on the follicle containing the seed.

The species is found growing in winter-wet spongelite soils in the Kamballup area.

Peter Luscombe first discovered Kamballup banksia in 1987. Numerous surveys have been undertaken since then, but no new populations of this species have been located.

A Masters student from Curtin University is currently undertaking research into the biology and ecology of the species, which will provide information on how to adequately manage and conserve it.

Kamballup banksia was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

DEC has set up the Albany District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the species' survival in the wild (see overleaf).

Kamballup banksia is currently known from a single location and DEC is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the district office on the above number, please phone DEC's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.



An adult plant of Kamballup banksia. Photo – Maurice McDonald



Pale yellow flowers are produced at the base of the leaves in October. Photo – Leonie Monks

## Recovery of a Species



DEC is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered taxa do not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan (RP) or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outlines the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by DEC and implemented by Regional or District Recovery teams consisting of representatives from DEC, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, community groups, private landowners, local Shires and various government organisations.

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## Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include:

**Protection from current threats:** The control of introduced weeds; development of a fire protection plan; maintenance of dieback hygiene and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

**Protection from future threats:** Ensuring that relevant authorities; land owners and DEC personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

## Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

Setting aside land containing this species as a nature reserve; collection and storage of seed in DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of Kamballup banksia; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of other limiting factors, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.

IRPs will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of their approval.



Note the long serrated leaves of Kamballup banksia. Photo – Anne Cochrane



A plant affected by drought. Photo – Leonie Monks



Habitat of Kamballup banksia with the Stirling Range in the background. Photo – Leonie Monks



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