

Split-leaved grevillea

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) Perth Hills District on (08) 9295 9100 or the Moora District on (08) 9652 1911.

Split-leaved grevillea, also known as *Grevillea althoferorum*, is a compact lignotuberous shrub up to 50 centimetres in height. It has angular branchlets covered with very fine, long, soft hairs. Its leaves are 1.5 to two centimetres long, ascending to spreading, shortly petiolate and twice divided, lobes broadly triangular with recurved pungent tips. The terminal inflorescence is two to six centimetres long and erect. The cream flowers, produced from September to November, are regular (not one-sided) and the buds are covered in pinkish-brown hairs.

Split-leaved grevillea was first collected south of Eneabba in 1978 by EA Griffin. This population was destroyed during mining operations and subsequent surveys failed to locate additional populations. Then, in 1991, P Olde discovered a new population approximately five kilometres east of the original collection. Staff from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (which has subsequently merged with the



The cream flowers and pointy, twice divided leaves distinguish this species. Photo – Adam Williams

Department of Environment to form the Department of Environment and Conservation) and consultants undertook surveys of the area between 1991 and 1994, but no additional populations were located. A second population, located approximately 200 kilometres south of the Olde population, was discovered during a flora survey of the southern Swan Coastal Plain.

Split-leaved grevillea is currently only known from two populations 200 kilometres apart, one south of Eneabba and the other near Bullsbrook. The population south of Eneabba is found on the crest of a low rise on pale brown loamy sand or grey sand supporting low heath. This population occurs on a road verge and is threatened by weed invasion, dieback, road maintenance and agricultural activities, grazing, general ground disturbance by rabbits and foxes, and inappropriate fire regimes.

The Bullsbrook population is situated at the base of the Darling Scarp in greyish yellow sand in low *Banksia* woodland. The population occurs in a conservation reserve adjacent to agricultural land. The reserve is known to contain dieback. At this site the Critically Endangered grevillea is also at risk from firebreak maintenance, inappropriate fire regimes and possibly herbicide or fertiliser drift associated with agricultural activity on adjacent land.

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 the threatened species 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, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

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Recovery actions that have been, and will be, progressively implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats – Recovery actions that are currently being implemented include the development of a fire management strategy to protect the species from inappropriate fire regimes; the maintenance of dieback hygiene; and regular monitoring of the health of the populations. DEC's Science division, together with staff from Moora District, has initiated a successful translocation project for split-leaved grevillea. Plants were propagated from cuttings taken from the Eneabba population by the Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority. These plants were then translocated to a secure site also located in Eneabba. This translocation project will help ensure the genetic viability of the species remains intact and the newly added population is under less threat.

Protection from future threats – Other recovery actions include conducting further surveys for this plant on soils and geology similar to that of the known populations; collecting seed; maintaining live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); researching the biology and ecology of split-leaved grevillea; enhancing plant numbers by continuing direct propagation and translocation techniques; ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and DEC staff are aware of its presence and the need to protect it and are all familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.



A mature plant of split-leaved grevillea. Photo – Leonie Monks

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased.


This project is funded by the Australian and State Governments' investment through the Natural Heritage Trust administered in the Swan Region by the Swan Catchment Council.



The habitat of split-leaved grevillea in Banksia low woodland on greyish yellow sands. Photo – Adam Williams



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