

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY DIRECTORATE

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 24

Ref: 08211F2206

PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED FLORA IN DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS
(Guidelines to be used in conjunction with Policy Statement No.9)

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ATTACHMENTS

+ D Coates Paper "CALM Operations and the Revised Schedule of Declared Rare (Endangered) Flora"

1. INTRODUCTION

These guidelines state procedures which are to be used by Districts and Regions so as to minimise accidental damage to endangered flora on CALM lands. A separate instruction will deal with activities on Crown land not vested in the Department and on Private Property.

2. POLICY

These guidelines must be read in conjunction with the Departmental Policy on the Conservation of Endangered Flora in the Wild - No. 9.

3. DEFINITION

Endangered (rare.) flora are those species that appear in a gazetted schedule. Note that the Schedule of Declared Rare (Endangered) Flora will be revised annually. The Government Gazette of 12 March 1982 contains a current listing of the species, as also do Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Reports Nos. 42 (1981) and 54 (1982).

4. RECORDS

4.1 Each District, Region or Ranger Station with a direct land management function, will keep up to date records of the location of endangered flora for all CALM lands in its District/Region/Park.

This will be as a 'Declared Endangered Flora Register' containing maps of a suitable scale, supplemented by descriptions (see CLM Form and notes on the Organisation and Use of the Register, Attachment 1).

This information has already been provided to Districts in the Forest Regions by the Environmental Protection Branch. Other Districts and Regions should contact Mr M O'Donoghue, the Senior Clerk Flora, Como or Mr G McCutcheon, Bunbury.

4.2 Forest Regions and Districts with an active Hardwood and Pine Operations Control System (HOCS, POCS) will maintain a separate sheet to record the location of endangered flora. Sheet numbers will be 7 for HOCS and 11 for POCS.

In the case of a population adjacent to a plantation, it will be necessary to record it on both the HOCS and POCS sheets, as it may need to be considered in the context of both hardwood or softwood operations.

Location recording should be with red adhesive stickers, giving the H.O. or Local file number for cross-referencing to the DRF Register, eg. DRF 1333 / 80.

- 4.3 Regions and Districts that are involved mainly with the management of Nature Reserves and National Parks should develop a similar recording system in consultation with Mr McCutcheon (Environmental Protection Branch). For the present, a "Declared Endangered Flora Register" with the locations of rare flora on maps of suitable scale, will be adequate.
- 4.4 All Districts, Regions and Rangers will record the location of endangered flora on their Fire Management and Operations Master Plans using red adhesive stickers, cross referenced to the H.O. file number and the DRF Register.

5. DEMARCATION

Locations of endangered flora may need to be temporarily and obviously demarcated to assist current operations (see 6.3.2). These markers must be removed when the operation is completed. In other cases, it may be necessary that populations of endangered flora along linear routes within CALM land, eg. roads, firebreaks, SEC lines be demarcated in the field in a standard but unobtrusive way (example Attachment 2). This system complements an existing system used by MRD on roads under their control.

6. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Operations on CALM land have potential to damage endangered flora. These activities may be carried out by CALM staff or by other agencies, eg. SEC, mining companies. The following procedures apply irrespective of the proponent. See also decision model (Attachment 3).

- 6.1 Establish whether endangered flora are likely to occur in the area of the proposed activity. Examine the Declared Rare (Endangered) Flora Register, the HOCS and POCS file, Reports No. 42 and 54. If necessary, consult with the Senior Clerk Flora, or personnel at Wildlife Research or Environmental Protection.
- 6.2 Arrange an inspection to establish whether endangered flora are present, before undertaking any activity that involves permanent destruction of native flora.

- 6.3 If endangered flora is located and plants are likely to be damaged or destroyed by the operation:-
- 6.3.1 consult flora conservation research personnel for a decision on whether the activity will pose a threat to the status of the species. For example some species may require fire to regenerate.
- 6.3.2 Where the status of a species will be threatened, the species must not be damaged or destroyed. Depending on the operation this may lead to:
- temporary and obvious demarcation of the location of endangered flora;
 - specific instructions on job sheets to ensure that damage does not occur;
 - a realignment of a proposed road, firebreak, SEC line;
 - localised protection measures to prevent a group of plants being burnt;
 - relocation of a recreation site, apiary site;
 - exclusion of an area from logging, clearing for pine plantations or mining.
 - In exceptional cases, permission to 'take' the flora may be sought.
- 6.3.3 Where the status of a species is NOT threatened, a permit to "take" endangered flora must be obtained if the operation is to proceed. As Ministerial approval is required, a well argued case must be prepared. Contact with the Senior Clerk Flora is essential and he will prepare the appropriate permit (Attachment 4).
- 6.4 In some cases, endangered flora have invaded disturbed areas such as firebreaks, SEC lines and road verges. It is impractical to continually realign these once they have been selected and constructed. Licences for recurrent operations, eg. grading, prescribed burning in established burning buffers, etc. may be issued on a permanent basis.

7. FIRE SUPPRESSION

In the suppression of uncontrolled fires, the protection of human life and property WILL take precedence over the protection of endangered flora. However, where possible, damage to endangered flora should be minimised by proper planning, use of the environmental checklist for suppression (CLM No. 32 Attachment 5), use of the Declared Rare (Endangered) Flora Registers, adequately marked Master Burning Plans and adequate supervision. The possible detrimental effects from the use of 'Amgard' must be considered. In the Large Fire Organisation, these aspects should be kept under review by the Environmental officer, with assistance, where feasible, from the flora conservation research staff at Woodvale.

8. CONTACTS

8.1 For advice on the status of endangered flora, training, herbarium techniques and the effects of operations, please contact:

Dr Hopper)
Dr Coates)
Dr Keighery) Research Centre, Woodvale
Ms Brown)
Mr Sokolowski)

Mr McCutcheon Environment Protection, Bunbury

8.2 To secure a permit to take endangered flora: Mr M O'Donoghue, Senior Clerk, Flora, Como.

9. STAFF TRAINING

9.1 Each District, Region and Ranger Station will develop and maintain a field herbarium of endangered flora, which occur in its area.

Each species will be represented by a mounted specimen, a colour photograph of the plant, and a description of its form and habitat. Permits I to take' flora as specimens, valid for the duration of employment, will be issued to nominated officers.

9.2 Appropriate staff (especially Rangers and the District Environmental Protection Officer) will be trained in the recognition of endangered flora. This training will be arranged by Regional Managers using the appropriate contacts in 8 above.

10. CONTROL

- 10.1 Each District/Region/Park will appoint an Environmental Protection Officer whose responsibilities are to include endangered flora. The Environmental Protection Branch, Como and the Senior Clerk Flora will be advised of these nominations, which are to be updated annually, on request from the Environmental Protection Branch, Como.
- 10.2 Duties of the Environmental Protection Officer (Endangered Flora) are:
- 10.2.1 To check that the prescriptions for operations are in accord with the Policy and these Guidelines and advise the O.I.C. where problems occur.
 - 10.2.2 To update and maintain the field herbarium, Register, HOCS, POCS, master burning plans etc.
 - 10.2.3 To act in a public advisory/extension capacity with regard to endangered flora.
 - 10.2.4 To conduct training sessions for staff, as required.
 - 10.2.5 To advise the Senior Clerk, Flora, and Mr G McCutcheon (Bunbury) of the location of new or additional populations of endangered flora.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY

To prevent unauthorised collection and trading in endangered flora, precise locations will be regarded as confidential to the extent that they will not be disclosed to persons outside the Department. Exceptions are the notification to landowners who have endangered flora on their property and to Government or other agencies as provided for in Section 6. Such notification will be via the Senior Clerk Flora or the District Office for field operations.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10 September 1987