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# CENTRAL FOREST REGION THREATENED FLORA MANAGEMENT PLAN

### ANNUAL REPORT 1998

**Project #: 440** 

By K WILLIAMS and A HORAN

on behalf of the Central Forest Region Threatened Flora and Communities Recovery Team

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**SUMMARY** 

The Central Forest Region Threatened Flora Management Plan and its associated team has undertaken a complete review of the status of the plan since the most recent Declared Rare and Priority Flora List was gazetted on 14 July 1998. A substantial level of regional resources (0.8 FTE) has been committed to reviewing the species and population information and databases to ensure they reflect the current list and knowledge. This is nearing completion and should be distributed for final comment by mid January 1999. Circulation of the final draft of accompanying information included in the plan has been distributed for comment.

Regional Nature Conservation Program Leader, Kim Williams has primary responsibility for the project. The target completion date for the project, set at June 30, 1998 has been extended to March 31, 1999 to allow for the above review.

## THREATENED FLORA MANAGEMENT PLAN Annual Report on SCOPE ITEMS

#### Action Item 1: Form a Recovery Team

The CFR Threatened Flora Management Plan Team has been incorporated into the Central Forest Region Threatened Flora and Communities Team. This team is responsible for the management and implementation of all threatened flora conservation works including the recovery actions for the 18 Flora / Community Recovery Plans or Interim Recovery Plans that are currently effective in the local region. The team is comprised of the following members,

V. English Representative WATSCU CALM.

V. English has replaced A. Brown as the WATSCU representative

K. Williams Nature Conservation Program Leader CFR CALM

Project Officer and Chair - Regional Threatened Flora Team

K. Williams has replaced S. Wood in this position

R. Fitzgerald Regional Wildlife Officer CFR - Rulingia Project Officer

C. Broadbent Senior Operations Officer Capes C. busselliana and

C. viridescens Project Officer

G. Voigt District Nature Conservation Officer Capes -

G. mccutcheonii Project Officer

R. Brazell District Nature Conservation Officer Mornington

C. Brocx District Nature Conservation Officer Mornington -

C. bryceana Project Officer

District Nature Conservation Officer Capes -

E. phyllacis Project Officer

A. Webb has left this position – his replacement is yet to be arranged

R. Turner District Nature Conservation Officer Blackwood

G. McCutcheon Community Volunteer.

A. Horan Regional Wildlife Officer – Plan Editor

In addition to the above species the following IRP's, for which project officers are yet to be designated, were recently received in the region for comment and implementation:

- Drakaea confluens
- Brachysema papilio
- Boronia exilis
- Darwinia sp. Williamson
- Grevillea elongata
- Lambertia echinata subsp. occidentalis
- Petrophile latericola
- Verticordia plumosa var. ananeotes
- Wurmbea calcicola

The team met twice in 1998, once in May and also November.

#### Action Item 2: Collate information for each taxon

Due to the extended and problematic plan production to date, much of the original data pertaining to the region's threatened taxa is now not current, thus a review of the data is being undertaken. This includes searching for and analysing datasets relevant to the region obtained from Western Australian Herbarium (WAHerb), Wildlife Branch (DEFL system) and other sources including Neil Gibson's Swan Coastal Plain Survey and various voucher collections made by individuals that have not been lodged at WAHerb.

The list of species contained in the plan is more extensive than the DEFL system CFR list as it incorporates data obtained from sources not accessed by DEFL. Further amendments resulted from changes in the operational boundaries between this region and Swan region.

The current dataset totals 2007 records for the region and is comprised of the following:

|             | DRF | P1 | P2  | P3  | P4 | Total |
|-------------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-------|
|             |     |    |     |     |    |       |
| Species     | 44  | 27 | 42  | 59  | 43 | 215   |
| Populations | 293 | 95 | 154 | 375 | ?  | 917 * |

NB: A review of the number of P4 populations in the region is still to be completed.

#### Action Item 3: Field Inspections and Surveys of populations.

A busy field year was again undertaken during 1998, with all three districts aiming to confirm the location, status and condition of threatened flora populations within their boundaries.

Summary of Flora Inspections undertaken in 1998.

|                   | DRF | P 1 | P 2 | P 3 | P 4 | Total |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Known Populations | 75  | 13  | 10  | 21  | 6   | 125   |
| New Populations   | 7   | 2   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 16    |

<sup>\*</sup> Total excludes any count of P4 populations.

#### Action 4: Threatened Flora Management

District and region staff again provided threatened flora management advice, comment and field survey skills to a range of external and internal clients through the course of protecting flora. Notable examples during 1997 include:

- Surveys in 5 forest blocks for the departments Hardwood Business Unit, prior to harvesting operations and road construction;
- 2 surveys in the region's National Parks prior to revegetation and camping area extensions;
- Various surveys of public utility alignments in preparation for maintenance and construction works;
- Pre-clearing surveys for mining companies and local government bodies;

#### Action 5: Plan Production

The scientific and grammatical edit following comments from the draft released in June 1997 was completed earlier this year. A draft of the plan's accompanying information was circulated for comment in June 1998 to botanists and operational staff both internal and external.

The process of review and enumeration of the number of populations of each species within the region has been completed for DRF, P1, P2 and P3 species. Following this review it was decided to formally bring the plan in line with the gazettal notice of 14 July 1998 – 1998 Declared Rare and Priority Flora List. The majority of the plan production since August 1998 has been focused on this task.

Distribution maps of each species for inclusion into the plan have been designed and printed. These are also under review in light of the 1998 Declared Rare and Priority Flora List and a complete set of current maps will be produced for distribution with the final plan in March 1999.

#### **FUTURE TASKS**

Plan Production tasks requiring completion:

- Editing of the introduction and appendices following comments,
- Final Draft circulation of entire plan,
- Final edit following comment of final draft,
- Printing and distribution

NB: The initial print run of the document will not include information for the P4 species. Utilising the "loose-leaf" format of the document these will be added to the plan at a later stage.

#### CONCLUSION

Though the review process has lengthened the time to complete the plan, it was not appropriate to produce the final document without resolving this issue. A target deadline of March 31, 1999 for completion of the first print run has been set and this should be achieved comfortably.