

Bankwest *Landscape* Conservation Visa Card

Project Completion Report

Project Title: Collection of the Priority 1 (now DRF) species *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *chlorella*

The collection of seed from two populations of the declared rare *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *chlorella* was undertaken at Carousel Swamp in Cannington and Mogumber Nature Reserve in January and June 2008. In the funding application (Attachment 1) it was proposed that the collection of seed would be undertaken by staff from DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre (TFSC), however the collection was completed by Swan Coastal District staff in consultation with the TFSC.

The status of this flora species was Priority 1 at the time of the funding application however since this time the species has become listed as 'critically endangered' under State legislation. A small amount of seed has been collected from five plants within the *Eremophila* population located at Cannington and from eleven plants at the Mogumber subpopulations. Prior to this project there had been no seed collection undertaken for this species.

The seed collected from this species will now be processed and stored at the TFSC. This vital recovery action will enable propagation of plants for translocations and guards against extinction.



Figure 1: Fruits of Eremophila glabra subsp. chlorella



Figure 2: Collection being undertaken by SCD staff at Cannington.

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Project application for funding

Submissions of grants for small projects that should directly and clearly benefit a species currently ranked as Critically Endangered or Endangered or Vulnerable or an ecological community that is databased and ranked as Critically Endangered or Endangered or Vulnerable, or produce information on species or communities thought to be Critically Endangered or Endangered or Vulnerable so their listing and ranking can be undertaken. Projects on species that are under consideration for ranking as CR will also be considered.

Project Title: Seed collection of the Priority 1 species *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *chlorella*

Proponents: Melissa Hoskins, Jessica Wright

Introduction / Summary: Collecting seed and cutting material from wild populations of DRF is a vital recovery action. This enables propagation of plants for translocations and guards against extinction. Only 20 of the approximately 58 Declared Rare Flora species in the Swan Region have seed in store at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre (TFSC). The Priority 1 species *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *chlorella* is currently known from two populations, only one of which is currently on DEC tenure. This species is currently awaiting endorsement for DRF status as 'Endangered'. The Scientific Committee accepted its nomination in March of 2007. The populations are threatened by weed invasion and grazing. Collecting seed from both populations will ensure seed stores are genetically diverse and that there are adequate numbers of seed for viability and dieback susceptibility testing and propagation.

Background: *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *chlorella* is currently known from only two populations located approximately 100km apart. The first population occurs at Carousel Swamp in Cannington on tenure owned by Western Power. This population comprises only ten plants and is threatened by weed invasion, particularly tambookie grass. A small amount of seed has been collected from this population by Andrew Crawford in May 2007 and is currently stored at the TFSC.

The second population occurs in Mogumber Nature Reserve in Gingin. There are 2000+ individuals in this population, which are threatened by grazing from rabbits and kangaroos, and salinity. No seed has been collected from this population.

The seed collection will be undertaken in conjunction with the TFSC. Plants will be monitored during the time of fruit production. When fruit are ready they will be collected by hand from multiple plants within both populations and stored as per TFSC protocol. Some of the seed collected will be tested for seed viability and dieback susceptibility. Some seed will also be used for propagation.

Conservation Outcome: The collection of seed from both populations will ensure seed stores are genetically diverse and there is enough seed for potential translocations.

Project Timing: Summer/Autumn 2008

Project Budget: \$2,000 from Bankwest *Landscape* Conservation Visa Card to contribute to staff costs of the TFSC and materials required for collection.