Threatened plant translocations in Western Australia: lessons learnt

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Symposium: The role of plant translocations in restoring and maintaining biodiversity: policy, planning and practice

Translocations are increasingly being used in an attempt to prevent extinction or to restore population viability of threatened plant species. For translocations to be effective in achieving these goals they must be carefully planned, implemented and monitored. Long term monitoring is essential as this allows practitioners to accurately assess success or failure and, where necessary, to take corrective action to avert failure. Recently, there has been an increasing interest in the use of translocation as a tool to aid in climate change adaptation. If translocation is to be effective at mitigating species decline under likely climate change scenarios then previous plant translocations must be examined closely and the lessons learnt shared. The Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation has implemented translocations for more than 60 plant species over the past two decades. Using an adaptive management framework the knowledge and experiences gained from early translocations have been used to improve the success of later attempts. This talk will discuss some of the plant translocations underway in Western Australia and highlight the lessons learnt along the way.

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