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McCutcheon's 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
CALM South West Capes on (08) 9752 1677**

Commonly known as McCutcheon's grevillea, *Grevillea maccutcheonii* is an attractive shrub that grows to 2 m tall and produces large, red flowers between May and December (peaking from July to November). Distinctive, flattened, three-lobed leaves encircle the stem.

The species is found growing in winter waterlogged, shallow, red-brown clay over ironstone near Busselton.

A Busselton farmer first collected McCutcheon's grevillea sometime before 1992. At that time, Grahame McCutcheon from CALM in Bunbury realised that it was an undescribed species, and lodged a specimen in the Western Australian Herbarium.

Several years later, in recognition of the effort he had put into its conservation, the new species was named *Grevillea maccutcheonii*.

Despite intensive surveying of the area where McCutcheon's grevillea grows (as part of the Swan Coastal Plain survey), no other populations of this attractive plant have been found.

McCutcheon's grevillea was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995, and CALM set up the Central Forest Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting its survival in the wild. (See overleaf.)

Threats include degraded habitat, poor survival of seedlings, the deaths of some adult plants, weeds, accidental damage during roadworks, and the small population size.

McCutcheon's grevillea is currently known from a single population and we are eager to hear of any others.

If unable to contact the District office on the above number, please phone CALM's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.



A typical flower of McCutcheon's grevillea. Photo – A. Brown



A mature plant, illustrating the dense, domed habit of the species. Photo – A. Brown

Recovery of a Species



CALM 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 threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, community groups, private landowners, local Shires and various government organisations.

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Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats: The control of introduced weeds; the development of a fire protection plan; the maintenance of dieback hygiene; and the regular monitoring of the health of the population.

Protection from future threats: The erection of signs that mark the site of the population; ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it; and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

The collection of seed; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of McCutcheon's grevillea; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.



Masses of flowers are produced between July and November. Photo – A. Brown

IRPs will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of their approval.



The only known population of this rare species is confined to a narrow road reserve near Busselton. Photo – D. Papenfus

