

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

# Meelup Mallee

CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE  
NOT FOR LOAN

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 the Meelup mallee, *Eucalyptus phylacis* is a small mallee or tree to 5 m tall, with distinctive coarse, non-fibrous bark overlaying thick corky bark.

Meelup mallee blooms in February and March, when masses of white flowers are produced in the axils of terminal leaves.

The species is closely related to *Eucalyptus decipiens*, but differs in having smaller buds and fruit, broadly conical opercula (the cap on the bud) and in not having emarginate (a small notch at the leaf tip) juvenile leaves.

Meelup mallee was first collected in 1982, and named in 1992.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden staff have undertaken research into the genetics of the species. During this research they discovered that the only known population is in fact a single plant (clone) which may be up to 3600 years old.

Meelup mallee was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995 but, through successful recovery actions, has since been re-ranked as Endangered.

CALM has set up the Central Forest Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the species' survival in the wild. (See overleaf.)

Threats include accidental damage through road maintenance, no germination from seed (the species having very poor seed viability), and insect damage.

The species is known from only one roadside population in the Meelup area, and we are eager to know 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 close-up of the creamy-white flowers typical of the species. Photo — A. Brown



A fully grown tree. Note the low branching habit. 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.

# Meelup Mallee

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

**Protection from current threats:** The erection of signs that mark the site of the population; the treatment and monitoring of insect borers; the development of a fire protection plan; and the regular monitoring of the health of the population.

**Protection from future threats:** The maintenance of dieback hygiene; ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the species and the need to protect it; and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

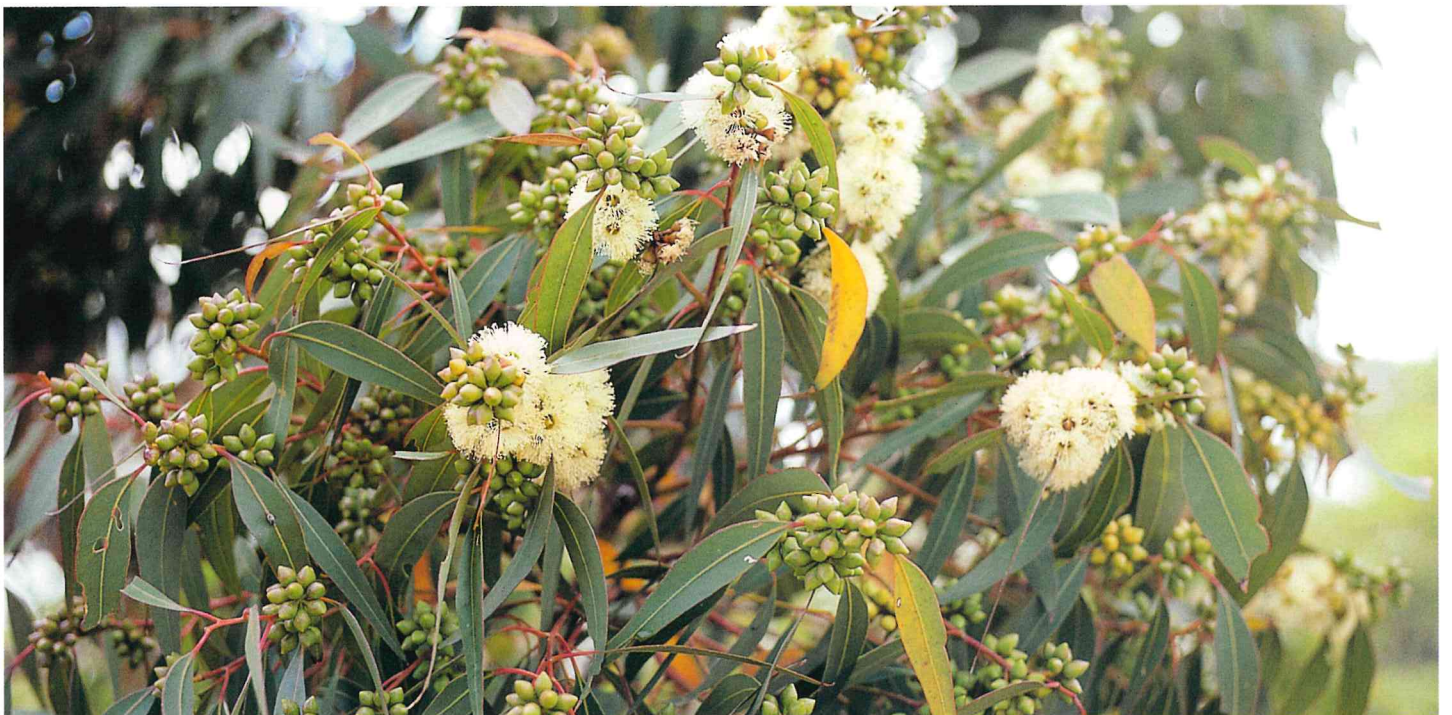
## Desirable recovery actions, which are being progressively implemented, include:

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

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.



This photo shows the distinctive coarse bark typical of the species. Photo – F. Bunny



Masses of white flowers are produced in February and March. Photo – A. Brown

