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White featherflower

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 have seen this plant, please call
CALM Moora District on (08) 9651 1424.**

Verticordia albida is commonly known as white featherflower. It is a tall shrub, up to 3 metres in height and develops a straggly appearance when mature. Masses of large white feathery flowers with pink centres are produced on spikes from November to January.

Fred Lullfitz collected the first specimen of this spectacular featherflower in 1961. Numerous surveys since then have located only a handful of places where it occurs. The species grows amongst dense scrub on grey to yellow sand over laterite.

Vegetation clearance is considered to be the principal cause of the rarity of the species. The extremely restricted distribution of the species is a major threat to its survival, and any local threat may result in its extinction in the wild.

In 1992 the species was accorded a Priority One rating. However, the low numbers of plants and the threats associated with narrow road reserves warranted upgrading of its status to Declared Rare Flora in 1994. It was ranked as Critically Endangered in September 1995.

CALM has set up the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address threats to the survival of the species in the wild (see overleaf).

Major threats to the populations are weed invasion, inappropriate fire regimes, grazing and drift of agricultural chemicals. The roadside population is also at risk from dieback disease (caused by plant pathogens) and accidental destruction.

The species is currently known from only a few populations and CALM is keen 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.



Flower spikes of white featherflower. Photo – Anne Cochrane



Note the pink centres on the white feathery flowers. Photo – Anne Cochrane

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.

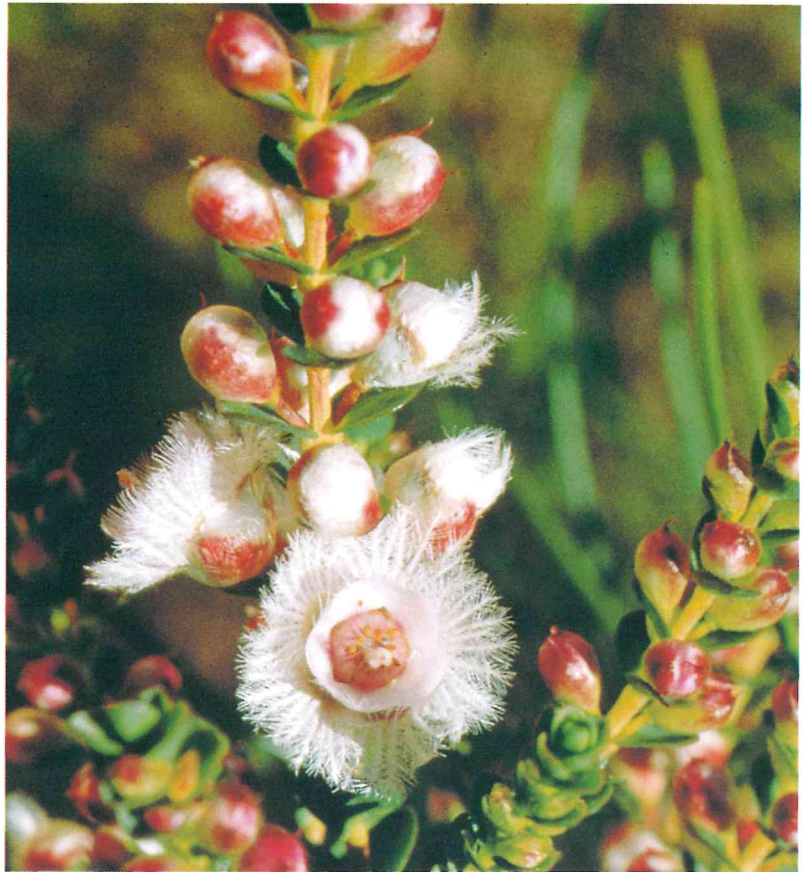
IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery Teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

White featherflower

Recovery actions that have been, and will be, progressively implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats: the control of weeds; conducting further surveys; and regular monitoring of the health of the populations.

Protection from future threats: the maintenance of dieback hygiene; the maintenance of buffers of natural vegetation around populations; the development of both a translocation proposal and a fire management strategy; collection and storage of seed at CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (in botanical gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and CALM personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threats identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.



A close up of white featherflower. Photo – Sue Patrick

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased.

This poster is sponsored by the BankWest LANDSCOPE Conservation Visa Card.



The habitat of white featherflower. Photo – Felicity Bunny

