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Department of Biodiversity,  
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# Dark-bract banksia

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



Dark-bract banksia seedlings.  
Photo – Benson Todd

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

### *Protection from current threats:*

control of weed invasion along road sides; regular monitoring of the health of known populations; and conducting further surveys for this plant on soils and geology similar to that of the known populations.

### *Protection from future threats:*

collection of seed and storage at DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); researching the biology and ecology of dark-bract banksia; enhancing plant numbers by direct propagation and translocation techniques; ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and DEC staff are aware of its presence and the need to protect it; and the ongoing implementation of recovery actions outlined in the Interim Recovery Plan for the species.

*Note:* Dark-bract banksia (*Banksia fuscobractea*) was previously known as dark-bract dryandra (*Dryandra fuscobractea*).

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

This project is funded by the Australian and State governments' investment through the Natural Heritage Trust, administered in the Midwest Region by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.



Above: Dark-bract banksia.

Below: Habitat of dark-bract banksia. Photos – Gina Broun





# Dark-bract banksia

Endangered flora of Western Australia

**If you think you've seen this plant, please call the  
Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's)  
Moora District on (08) 9652 1911.**



Mature plant of dark-bract banksia in flower. Photo – Gina Broun

Dark-bract banksia (*Banksia fuscobractea*) is an erect, prickly, non-lignotuberous shrub to one metre high with wedge-shaped, pungently serrate (prickly) leaves four to seven centimetres long, each with four to nine teeth on each side. The flower head is four to five centimetres in diameter with pale yellow and mauve flowers. There are between 180 and 190 flowers on each head, which appear between July and August. The stems are covered with a thick mat of hairs.

The species is most closely related to wedge-leaved banksia (*Banksia cuneata*) but is distinguished by the conspicuous dark brown bracts at the base of each inflorescence and the more numerous, smaller flowers within each inflorescence. The flowers also have darker coloured pollen presenters.

Dark-bract banksia was first collected by Ted Griffin in 1983 and was formally described in 1996. The species is known from just two roadside populations west of Gillingarra, consisting of less than 50 mature plants. The species grows in lateritic gravel and also in sand over laterite, in low kwongan vegetation. Associated species include *Allocasuarina humilis*, *Banksia kippistiana*, *Hakea incrassata*, *Hakea scoparia*, *Calothamnus sanguineus*, *Acacia stenoptera* and *Adenanthos cygnorum*.

The species was declared as rare flora in 2004 and ranked as critically endangered at that time. DEC has set up the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the species in the wild.

The main threats include roadside maintenance (grading, construction of drainage channels and removal of roadside vegetation), fence or firebreak maintenance, gravel extraction, grazing, invasion of weeds and limited recruitment. One population has already been affected by the widening of the roads during roadside maintenance.

If unable to contact DEC's Moora District Office on the above number, please phone DEC's Species and Communities Branch on (08) 9334 0455.

## Recovery of a species

DEC 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 or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outline the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of the threatened species in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by DEC and implemented by regional or district recovery teams consisting of representatives from DEC, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

