

# Flora book hits stands

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by Andrew Brown

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At last, the long-awaited book "Western Australia's Endangered Flora" is in the hands of the printer and will soon be released.

Written and compiled by Stephen Hopper, (principal author), Stephen van Leeuwen, Andrew Brown and Susan Patrick from CALM's Research Division, the book is illustrated in full colour with photographs supplied by many members of the department and compiles over a decade of research.

Work on the book first began in 1977 when little was known about endangered flora and its biology. It has taken until now to survey, study, photograph and monitor all the species treated within.

The book discusses the conservation of WA's endangered flora and reviews relevant legislation, policy, research and management activities of CALM.

It also provides an illustrated guide (with most in full colour) to the 238 plant taxa declared as endangered flora in 1989, lists other plants under consideration for declaration and illustrates a selection of presumed extinct and recently rediscovered plants.

Endangered plants warrant special conservation attention as their extinction is more likely than for other plants. We now know that WA has more endangered flora than any other state of Australia, or the vast majority of other countries in the world.

In most cases, these plants are naturally localized, recently-evolved and numerically rare.

Many replace each other over short distances across the landscape, so that similar districts have their own local endemic.

Most endangered flora are especially prone to extinction from bulldozing, disease infection, weed invasion, drought and other local disturbances.

Much remains to be done to ensure the conservation of WA's endangered flora and it's hoped this book will stimulate interest in these plants.

It should also assist land owners, botanists, CALM staff and interested members of the public in their identification.

A limited edition, "Western Australia's Endangered Flora" will be available from major bookstores or direct from CALM at a recommended retail price of \$24.95.