Action statement

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Cherry Rice-flower (*Pimelea drupacea*)

Taxon ID: 502519

Action statements are developed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act). Their preparation and implementation complement the FFG Act strategy *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* and its vision that "Victoria's biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for".

Species and Distribution

Cherry Rice-flower. Image by Atlas of Living Australia.

This habitat distribution model displays the indicative range of Cherry Rice-flower based on occurrence records and likely habitat. See NatureKit for an interactive map.

Conservation Status

Critically Endangered

Listing criteria: 3.1.2(a)(b)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v); 3.1.3(b)(i) of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020.

This means that:

- its geographic distribution is extremely restricted; and
- it is restricted to a limited number of areas that are subject to the same threat or suite of threats that can impact all individuals present; and
- there is a continuing decline or reduction in:
  - its area of occupancy; and
  - the area, extent or quality of habitat; and
  - the number of locations or subpopulations; and
  - the numbers of mature individuals.
- the total number of mature individuals is very low, the number is likely to continue to decline and each subpopulation is extremely small.

Corresponding International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria: B1ab(ii,iii,iv,v); C2a(i).

More information on IUCN listing criteria can be found here: IUCN Red List Criteria.

Species Information

Species information such as its description, distribution, ecology and references are provided in the Cherry Rice-flower Species Forecast Report and VicFlora.

Threats

The threats below have been identified through expert consultation, published literature and spatial analysis.

Threat	Description
Fire	
Altered fire regimes	• Increased frequency and intensity of fire may cause mortality of plants before they reach maturity. Fires contribute to vegetation change by opening the habitat and permitting drying winds to enter, facilitating overgrowth by short-lived shrubs and herbs, and allowing expansion of eucalypt species.
	• Increased frequency and intensity of fire may cause mortality of adult plants before they reach maturity, damage the habitat, and modify ecosystem processes.
	• A hotter, drier climate may increase the likelihood or frequency of fires that impact the species' habitat, with the potential to reduce habitat quality and/or extent.
Fire management activities	• Fire management operations such as creation of fuel breaks (soil disturbance, slashing) may lead to siltation, remove habitat, cause mortality of individuals, and reduce regeneration.
Introduced species	
Deer	• Introduced deer species (Sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*), Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)) degrade habitat through herbivory, antler-rubbing, trampling, pugging of wet soils, increasing nutrient loads, erosion of waterway edges, and increasing the accessibility of habitat to introduced predators and introduced plants.
Introduced plants	• Introduced plants can directly compete for resources and reduce species abundance and diversity.
Native species	
Other native plant species	• Invasion of eucalypt recruits from surrounding forest outcompete rainforest stands and significantly impact the retention of Victoria's rainforest habitat.
Pathogens and disease	
Myrtle Wilt	• Myrtle Wilt is a natural disease of Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*). It is caused by a fungus (*Chalara australis*) infecting plants through wounded tissue, and almost always kills the infected tree. This is a major threat to habitat throughout areas where Myrtle Beech is the dominant or co-dominant canopy species.

Conservation Objectives

Conservation objectives are informed by the conservation status and criteria in which the species was listed under the FFG Act. This provides a framework to understand how we can work towards recovery and improve the species' conservation status over time as per the objectives of the FFG Act.

The key objectives of this action statement are:

- Mitigate threats to populations and habitat to increase resilience, increase genetic fitness and minimise future population decline;
- Increase the Cherry Rice-flower's range and/or extent, by providing opportunities for natural movement/dispersal;
- Increase knowledge of biology, ecology, distribution, demography, emerging threats, and conservation requirements; and
- Support community participation and improve awareness of the Cherry Rice-flower and conservation of its habitat.

Conservation Actions

The actions below have been identified through expert consultation, published literature and spatial analysis. Actions are listed in alphabetical order to allow all interested parties to prioritise based on their context, capacity and capability. Landscape scale actions may mitigate threats for other species. For more information on where to undertake actions that benefit multiple species and identify the most beneficial locations to undertake actions for this species, please refer to NatureKit.

Action	Description
Avoid and/or mitigate impacts associated with fire management	• Undertake biodiversity values check prior to fuel management in areas of the species habitat, to confirm treatment suitability and timing.
	• Ensure that species distribution data and ecological information is available and considered in fire management activities.
Control deer*	• Implement and maintain effective control of deer in priority areas.
Control introduced plants*	• Implement and maintain effective control of introduced plants in priority areas and undertake revegetation with appropriate native species, where required.
Manage over-abundant native plant species	• Manage eucalypt invasion in rainforest following intense fire events. Culling should occur within four years following a fire and should focus on former rainforest stands which had optimal stand size, structural integrity, and species diversity; the most threatened rainforest types; and the habitat for known threatened species.
Mitigate the risks posed by pathogens and disease	• Minimise damage to the crown or root system of Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) to limit infection by the airborne and waterborne spores of the fungal pathogen.
Survey and monitoring	• Undertake targeted field surveys to confirm the extent of all known populations and seek to discover previously undetected populations based on predicted habitat and ecological information.
	• Monitor representative populations to determine trends and management needs.
Vegetation management	• Investigate localised management solutions to mitigate the impacts of increased frequency and intensity of fire.

**Indicates landscape-scale actions that may deliver benefits to multiple species*

Past Actions

The compilation process for this action statement did not identify any past management actions undertaken in the last 10 years. If you are aware of recent actions that have been undertaken to benefit this species, please contact threatened.species@deeca.vic.gov.au

Decision Support Tools

Decision making for conservation actions is supported through the following Victorian Government tools which may be of assistance in choosing the most appropriate or beneficial actions for biodiversity:

- Choosing actions for nature
- Biodiversity Knowledge Framework

Further Information

- Cherry Rice-flower Species Forecast Report
- Threatened Species Assessment Report - Cherry Rice-flower (*Pimelea drupacea*)
- Victorian Deer Control Strategy
- Victoria's changing climate - understanding the impacts of climate change in Victoria
- Commonwealth Threat Abatement Plans
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020
- IUCN criteria summary

Get Involved and Take Action

If you are interested in supporting this species' recovery, there are some important things to consider.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is committed to engaging and partnering with Traditional Owners on how they wish to be involved in the planning and implementation of actions for this species. Steps must be taken to avoid harm and where appropriate ensure actions can deliver cultural benefits.

You can find advice about required approvals, land manager and/or owner permissions, options and incentives for private land conservation, and engagement with Traditional Owners and public land managers here: Action statements (environment.vic.gov.au)

To identify the relevant Traditional Owners, use the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) Welcome to Country and Acknowledgements Map.

You can also register your interest in taking action so we can connect you to other people or organisations working to help us secure the future for this species at threatened.species@deeca.vic.gov.au

Reporting Actions

Activity data are critical to monitoring the implementation and progress of actions and evaluating action statements. These data are also used to:

- determine progress towards achieving the contributing targets for Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037.
- inform the five-yearly State of the Environment Report.

For guidance on reporting actions undertaken on this species, refer to Activity Data.

Submitting Monitoring Data

The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) provides a foundational dataset showing where biodiversity occurs across the Victorian landscape and how it may have changed over time. As a core input for decision support tools that inform conservation action, public land management, research activities and reporting, we encourage all participants in the delivery of on-ground actions to submit species records and observations, including for weeds or introduced animals, as they carry out their projects.

For further information see: Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (environment.vic.gov.au)

Sign up and begin submitting your data today at: https://vba.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

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Accessibility

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