

# Action statement

## *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*

### Small-leaf Wax-flower (*Philothea difformis* subsp. *difformis*)

Taxon ID: 501223

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



Small-leaf Wax-flower. Image by Geoff Lay.



This habitat distribution model displays the indicative range of Small-leaf Wax-flower based on occurrence records and likely habitat. See [NatureKit](#) for an interactive map. This species also occurs outside of Victoria.

## Conservation Status

### Endangered

**Listing criteria:** 4.1.2(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v) of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020.

This means that:

- its geographic distribution is highly restricted; and
- the distribution of the population or habitat of the taxon is severely fragmented; 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 extent of occurrence; and
  - 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.

**Corresponding International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria:**

B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v). More information on IUCN listing criteria can be found here: [IUCN Red List Criteria](#).

## Species Information

The Small-leaf Wax-flower also occurs outside of Victoria where it may have a different conservation status throughout its broader distribution. Species information such as its description, distribution, ecology and references are provided in the [Small-leaf Wax-flower Species Forecast Report](#), [VicFlora](#) and the [Atlas of Living Australia](#).

## Threats

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

| Threat   | Description  |
|--|--|
| <b>Climate change</b>                                |  |
| Increased frequency and/or length of droughts        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drying and warming of the environment, including droughts, may lead to habitat changes, and impact recruitment and/or mortality rates.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Fire</b>  |  |
| Altered fire regimes                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire, including planned burns, that are more frequent than the species tolerable fire interval can lead to seedbank exhaustion, reduced recruitment and mortality of recruits.</li> </ul>   |
| Fire management activities                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire management operations such as creation of fuel breaks (soil disturbance, slashing) may remove habitat, cause mortality of individuals, and reduce regeneration.</li> <li>High intensity planned burns in or near rocky habitat may damage plants.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Habitat loss, degradation or modification</b>     |  |
| Land use change                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats are subject to degradation and loss through clearing, particularly on private land and road reserves.</li> </ul>   |
| Livestock  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock can cause habitat degradation through the combined effects of herbivory, trampling, soil compaction, soil erosion, pugging of wet areas, and excess nutrient loads.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Human disturbance</b>                             |  |
| Construction, development and/or infrastructure      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction and development may result in direct removal of habitat, or indirect impacts to habitat through changes to water regimes and increased risk of weed incursion.</li> </ul>  |
| Recreational activities                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rocky environments can be very sensitive to trampling and vehicle damage.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Introduced species</b>                            |  |
| Deer   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced deer species (Sambar Deer (<i>Cervus unicolor</i>), Red Deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>) and Fallow Deer (<i>Dama dama</i>)) 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 other introduced species.</li> </ul> |
| Introduced plants                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced plants can directly compete for resources and reduce species abundance and diversity.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Native species</b>                                |  |
| Competition and/or herbivory by other native species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competition for resources with, and/or herbivory by, other native species can impact habitat, recruitment and/or mortality rates. This threat is exacerbated where habitat loss or degradation reduces availability of resources.</li> </ul>  |

## 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 Small-leaf Wax-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 Small-leaf Wax-flower and conservation of its habitat, including the restoration of cultural knowledge where appropriate.

## Conservation Actions

The actions below have been identified through expert input, 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. Holistic management of the cultural landscape where this species occurs is encouraged noting additional actions including cultural practice may benefit this 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](#). In undertaking actions for this species, consider the full extent of the species' range.

| Action  | Description  |
|---|--|
| Avoid and/or mitigate impacts associated with fire management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake biodiversity values check prior to fuel management in areas of the species' habitat, to confirm treatment suitability and timing.</li> <li>• Ensure that species distribution data and ecological information is available and considered in fire management activities.</li> </ul>   |
| Climate adaptation  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the incremental and/or transformational adaptation actions that may be required to support the recovery of the species. This may be done by applying the climate adaptation lens and triggers for transformational adaptation from the Victorian Government's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans.</li> </ul>   |
| Community engagement and awareness                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify, promote, and support opportunities for raising awareness and community involvement in conservation efforts, including through citizen science to inform improved management for the species.</li> <li>• Increase landholder awareness of the species and the impacts of livestock grazing. Provide guidance on the changes to grazing that may be required, such as exclusion, to support conservation outcomes.</li> </ul> |
| Control deer*   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement and maintain effective control of deer in priority areas.</li> </ul>  |
| Control introduced plants*                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement and maintain effective control of introduced plants in priority areas and undertake revegetation with appropriate native species, where required.</li> </ul>  |
| Ecological fire regime*                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement fire management actions that promote an appropriate fire regime for the species.</li> </ul>   |
| Manage native species   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and apply management techniques to mitigate the threat of competition and/or herbivory from native species where required.</li> </ul>   |
| Manage public access  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage public access to limit the risks of human disturbance.</li> </ul>  |

| Action                | Description   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Protect key habitat   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that species distribution data and ecological information is available and considered in planning for developments, land use changes and utilities maintenance. Ensure that incremental losses are included in consideration of potential losses.</li> <li>Exclude access from horse-riding, vehicles and motorbikes, and discourage human trampling through the provision of appropriate fencing, signage and community education.</li> <li>Work with land managers, planners and developers to minimise impacts from construction and development or identify alternative sites for placement of infrastructure.</li> </ul> |
| Survey and monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor representative populations to determine trends and management needs.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>   |
| Vegetation management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement localised vegetation management to mitigate the impacts of increased frequency and intensity of fire.</li> </ul>   |

*\*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](mailto: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

- [Small-leaf Wax-flower Species Forecast Report](#)
- [Threatened Species Assessment Report - Small-leaf Wax-flower \(\*Philothea difformis\* subsp. \*difformis\*\)](#)
- [Atlas of Living Australia – Open access to Australia’s biodiversity data \(ala.org.au\)](#)
- [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](#)
- [Natural Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026](#)

## 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 \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://environment.vic.gov.au/action-statements)

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](mailto: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 \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://vba.biodiversity.vic.gov.au)

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

## Indigenous Data Sovereignty

DEECA is committed to recognising and enabling Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDS). Indigenous data comprise any information or knowledge of species and Country collected or recorded by, or about, Traditional Owners. IDS asserts Traditional Owner rights to access and have governance over the collection, ownership and use of their data, including that which is included or referred to in this Action Statement.

### 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.





This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

ISSN 1448-9902 (online)

#### Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

#### Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DEECA Customer Service Centre on 136186, email [customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au) or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 [www.accesshub.gov.au](http://www.accesshub.gov.au). This document is also available on the internet at [www.environment.vic.gov.au](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au)

