

Action statement

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Velvet Mint-bush (*Prostanthera incana*)

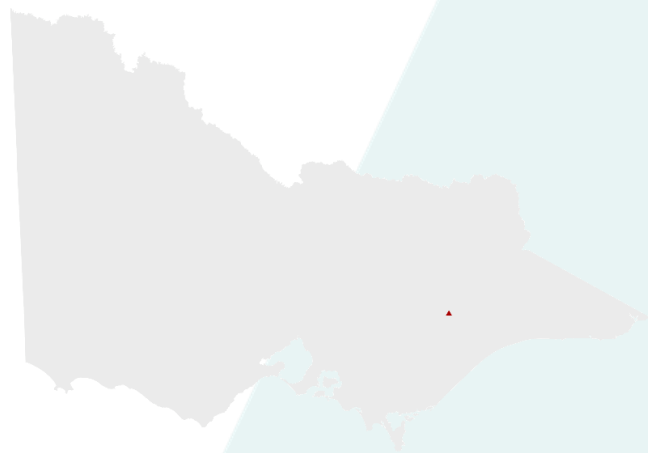
Taxon ID: 502742

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



Velvet Mint-bush. Image source: Atlas of Living Australia.



Velvet Mint-bush Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) records since 1970. See [NatureKit](#) for an interactive map. This species also occurs outside of Victoria.

Conservation Status

Endangered

Listing criteria: 4.1.4 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020.

This means that:

- the total number of mature individuals is very low.

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

More information on IUCN listing criteria can be found here: [IUCN Red List Criteria](#).

Species Information

The Velvet Mint-bush 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 [Velvet Mint-bush Species Forecast Report](#), [VicFlora](#) and the [Atlas of Living Australia](#).

Threats

The threats listed below have been identified with input from ecologists, databases, decision support tools and published literature. Traditional Owners may have additional threats to those listed for this species.

Threat	Description
Climate change	
Altered rainfall and temperature regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change, increasing temperature and altered rainfall are likely to magnify existing threats and may reduce the stability, extent, and condition of habitat.
Extreme weather events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change may increase the frequency and intensity of storms and flooding, increasing erosion and impacting habitat condition, and potentially causing mortality events.
Increased frequency and/or length of droughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drying and warming of the environment, including droughts, may lead to habitat changes, and impact recruitment and/or mortality rates.
Temperature extremes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change may increase the frequency and duration of heat-wave events, leading to increased risk of mortality.
Fire	
Altered fire regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire, including planned burns, that is more frequent than the species' tolerable fire interval can lead to seedbank exhaustion, reduced recruitment and mortality of recruits.
Habitat loss, degradation or modification	
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock can cause habitat degradation through the combined effects of herbivory, trampling, soil compaction, soil erosion, pugging of wet areas, and excess nutrient loads.
Vegetation clearing or damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal or damage to vegetation contributes to habitat loss.
Introduced species	
Deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced deer species such as Sambar Deer (<i>Cervus unicolor</i>), Red Deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>), Fallow Deer (<i>Dama dama</i>) and Hog Deer (<i>Axis porcinus</i>) degrade habitat through herbivory, antler-rubbing, trampling, pugging of wet soils, increasing nutrient loads, causing erosion of waterway edges, and increasing the accessibility of habitat for other introduced species.
Population dynamics	
Loss of genetic diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small, greatly reduced, and/or isolated populations are at increased risk of loss of genetic diversity, which leads to a heightened risk of reduced recruitment and/or increased mortality rates.
Population fragmentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fragmentation of once connected populations into smaller, isolated populations increases the risk of genetic decline and associated changes to recruitment and/or mortality rates.
Small population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small populations have lower resilience to the risk of stochastic events, and increased risk of genetic decline.

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 Velvet Mint-bush'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 Velvet Mint-bush and conservation of its habitat, including the restoration of cultural knowledge where appropriate.

Conservation Actions

The actions listed below have been identified with input from ecologists, databases, decision support tools and published literature. Actions are listed in alphabetical order to allow all interested parties to prioritise based on their context, capacity and capability. In undertaking actions for this species, consider the full extent of the species' range.

Holistic management of the cultural landscape where this species occurs is encouraged. Traditional Owners may identify other actions including cultural practice that will benefit this species and may also need to review existing actions to ensure they are culturally appropriate.

Action	Description
Climate adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Collect and store reproductive material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake appropriate collection of propagules for long-term storage. Ensure that adequate supply and genetic diversity is secured for future reintroduction, and that essential information (such as dormancy) is known. • Maintain seed collections from target populations within the Victorian Conservation Seedbank at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
Community engagement and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with key stakeholders to reduce the threats of human disturbance and encourage behaviours that support a healthy environment. • 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 from riparian areas, to support conservation outcomes.
Control deer*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and maintain effective control of deer in priority areas.
Ecological fire regime*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement fire management actions that promote an appropriate fire regime for the species.
Establish and maintain fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain fencing and/or other forms of protection to prevent access and damage to individuals or populations from introduced or native species where required.
Ex-situ management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain ex-situ populations in suitable secure sites, to service the conservation objectives of the species.

Action	Description
Protect key habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to manage threats of land use change and development, including programs to encourage protection and management of remaining habitat areas. 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.
Survey and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor representative populations to determine trends and management needs. 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.
Translocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and implement a translocation program to meet the objectives of the action statement.

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

Past Actions

The key conservation management actions listed below have been delivered in the past 10 years.

Past Action	Description
Control deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented and maintained effective control of deer in priority areas.

Decision Support Tools

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 the following decision support tools:

- [Choosing actions for nature](#)
- [Biodiversity Knowledge Framework](#)

Further Information

- [Velvet Mint-bush Species Forecast Report](#)
- [Threatened Species Assessment Report - Velvet Mint-bush \(*Prostanthera incana*\)](#)
- [Atlas of Living Australia – Open access to Australia’s biodiversity data](#)
- [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)

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 \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://environment.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 or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.accesshub.gov.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.environment.vic.gov.au

