

# Ancillary rule: biodiversity conservation actions

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Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

### Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.



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Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency Boss Lady Creative Designs created the People and Community symbol.

Cover photo: Student inspecting rare midge orchids in Orchid Conservation growth room. Richard Dimon/DCCEEW

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#### 1. Introduction

An obligation to retire biodiversity credits under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme can be met by funding a biodiversity conservation action, following the requirements in this ancillary rule.

## 2. Requirements for the use of biodiversity conservation actions

The following requirements must be met to use a biodiversity conservation action to meet an obligation to retire biodiversity credits under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme:

- 1. The action must benefit the threatened species or ecological community represented by the credit obligation.
- 2. The action must be selected from the list of biodiversity conservation actions in this ancillary rule (section 3).
- 3. The action must be delivered through the NSW Saving our Species program, managed by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department). This program provides a governance framework for the management of funding, implementation of the action, and monitoring and reporting on outcomes.
- 4. The amount to be provided for the action must be at least the amount that would need to be paid if the credit obligation was to be met through payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund under section 6.32(1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.* A quote can be requested from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust via the <u>Biodiversity Conservation Fund Charge System</u>.
- 5. The funding must be provided to the department before the impact on the threatened species or ecological community occurs. The biodiversity conservation action does not need to be completed before the impact occurs.

Note: These requirements apply only to proponents seeking to meet offset obligations. They do not apply to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, which may fund biodiversity conservation actions under clause 6.6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017.

#### 3. Biodiversity conservation actions

The biodiversity conservation actions that can be funded under this ancillary rule are set out in Table 1.

These actions focus on threatened species and ecological communities that:

• are difficult to effectively manage at a biodiversity stewardship site due to limited understanding of their ecology, threats or specific management requirements

- are critically impacted by key threatening processes, or at risk of being so in the future, where targeted research into these threats will result in improved management that will directly benefit the threatened entity
- have a limited known distribution where research aimed at identifying additional populations or habitats could significantly contribute to conservation efforts.

Species common name	Species scientific name	Biodiversity conservation actions
Flockton wattle	Acacia flocktoniae	Targeted survey across entire predicted range to identify locations of populations. Research to understand critical threats requiring management.
Five-clawed worm-skink	Anomalopus mackayi	Identify key threats to the species' viability at critical sites and associated relevant management actions. Research the species' movement patterns, habitat use and response to management.
A spear-grass	Austrostipa metatoris	Targeted survey in areas of known habitat to confirm distribution and population sizes and undertake threat assessment.
Missionary nutgrass	Cyperus semifertilis	Target survey in areas of suitable habitat, including areas near rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest (brushbox) on metamorphic parent rock and deep rocky gulleys to identify populations. Note: Surveys should be conducted during flowering period (likely to be December to March).
Deyeuxia appressa	Deyeuxia appressa	Targeted surveys to identify extant populations to collect data on area of occupancy, population status and habitat and undertake threat assessment.
Spike-rush	Eleocharis obicis	Investigate life history dynamics including seed viability, germination, dormancy and longevity (in the natural environment and in storage). Conduct experimental research into the effects of various flooding regimes and stock (grazing and trampling) disturbances on the species survival and recruitment.
Mueller's eyebright	Euphrasia collina subsp. muelleri	Targeted survey in areas where the species is known to have occurred across entire predicted range to determine whether populations continue to exist in New South Wales.
Flame spider flower	Grevillea kennedyana	Investigate population dynamics and the number of distinct individuals, through genetic analysis.

#### Table 1Biodiversity conservation actions list

Species common name	Species scientific name	Biodiversity conservation actions
		Assess seed bank to ensure the persistence of viable seed.
		Test for mechanisms influencing lack of germination, including seed predation.
Torrington beard-heath	Leucopogon confertus	Targeted survey in areas where the species is known to have occurred across entire predicted range to determine whether populations continue to exist in New South Wales.
Nalbaugh nematolepis	Nematolepis rhytidophylla	Targeted survey at known locations to assess population size, status and habitat and undertake threat assessment.
Ozothamnus tesselatus	Ozothamnus tesselatus	Targeted survey in potential habitat (based on current records and knowledge) to define distribution and where populations are located, assess population dynamics and undertake threat assessment.
Bolivia Hill pimelea	Pimelea venosa	Determine if populations can be resurrected from seedbank, and if it is possible to assess: a. abundance; b. demographics; c. recruitment; and d. long-term trends. Identify local threats limiting population viability over
		next 100 years and determine amelioration of fluctuating impacts under variable environmental conditions (e.g. drought and climate change).
Silky pomaderris	Pomaderris sericea	Conduct targeted survey in areas of known habitat to assess population status, investigate species' ecology and habitat, and undertake threat assessment.
Prostanthera discolour	Prostanthera discolor	Confirm all potential records of the species as being <i>Prostanthera discolor</i> rather than a similar taxon. Targeted survey throughout suitable habitat and within areas surrounding known records to determine population extent and tenure and undertake threat assessment.
Horned greenhood	Pterostylis bicornis	Targeted survey of known locations near Woodenbong to assess population size and threats.
Leafy greenhood	Pterostylis riparia	Targeted survey across the known range to identify significant populations and undertake threat assessment.
Smooth scrub turpentine	Rhodamnia maideniana	Undertake ex situ conservation through germplasm collections from a genetically representative selection of living individuals. Investigate other long term ex situ conservation methods (e.g. tissue culture, seed storage and cryopreservation).

Species common name	Species scientific name	Biodiversity conservation actions
		Establish a capacity to augment wild populations of the species with rust-resistant lineages. Investigate methods for the identification, transfer and breeding of resistance to myrtle rust in this, and/or a closely related species, using disease-tolerant and genetically diverse material if/when required.
Scrub turpentine	Rhodamnia rubescens	Maintain existing safe custody of ex situ living collections. Maintain genetically representative core collections to supply dispersed collections. Maintain and develop partnerships with other botanic gardens, non- government organisations and nurseries to establish and maintain dispersed collections.
		Identify rust-tolerant lineages from wild plants and ex situ collections of this species as well as other closely related species. Investigate reproductive biology of the species as an aid to resistance breeding. Work towards an eventual translocation-based recovery program proposal, including via liaison with other stakeholders.
Native guava	Rhodomyrtus psidioides	Maintain existing safe custody of ex situ living collections. Maintain genetically representative core collections to supply dispersed collections. Maintain and develop partnerships with other botanic gardens, non- government organisations and nurseries to establish and maintain dispersed collections.
		Identify rust-tolerant lineages from wild plants and ex situ collections of this species as well as other closely related species. Investigate reproductive biology of the species as an aid to resistance breeding. Work towards an eventual translocation-based recovery program proposal, including via liaison with other stakeholders.
Blotched sarcochilus	Sarcochilus weinthalii	Targeted survey of fallen branches of host plant during flowering season (September–October) to define distribution.
Yellow swainson-pea	Swainsona pyrophila	Targeted survey in the mallee regions (Mallee Cliffs National Park and Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary) post-fire. Conduct experimental research into the effects of fire on survival and recruitment.