



Threatened Plants Tasmania

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025



Plan justification

This plan sets the direction and strategic actions for the volunteer group, Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT), up to 2025. It is a working document which will evolve as the group grows and develops. It explains the Committee's intent to our partners and investors, whom we hope will help us to shape this draft document into a long-term strategy for the understanding and protection of Tasmania's threatened flora. It has been intentionally kept brief to ensure it can be quickly read and updated as needs demand.

The document was prepared by the Threatened Plants Tasmania committee after a planning session on 29 February 2020.

Background: Tasmania is home to a multitude of unique and fragile plant species. Of the 718 species listed as under threat in Tasmania (Tasmanian Species Protection Act), 68% are flora. Nearly a third of these species are endemic to our island state – found nowhere else in the world. They can be charismatic and colourful; small and drab; long-lived or ephemeral; only appearing briefly after rain or fire. Some are threatened due to habitat clearance and fragmentation, others are impacted by weeds, invasive animals, or inappropriate fire regimes. Others are naturally rare, while there are also many for which we lack knowledge of their distribution.

Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT) is a volunteer group, that has been actively involved in the conservation and monitoring of Tasmania's threatened plants for over 12 years. Threatened Plants Tasmania members undertake field trips to survey, monitor and manage threatened plants throughout Tasmania. These field trips are coordinated by the TPT committee and TPT's partners. Threatened Plants Tasmania is a Wildcare and a Landcare group.

Our Vision: For Tasmania's unique and threatened flora to be preserved for future generations.

Our Purpose is to conserve, learn and share knowledge about Tasmanian threatened plants by:

- Undertaking on ground recovery actions for priority species,
- Conducting surveys and monitoring to improve our knowledge,
- Sharing our love and passion of plants,
- Collaborating with others to achieve our conservation objectives; and
- Learning through sharing our collective knowledge.

Our Target species: TPT have worked on some of the most critically endangered species in Tasmania over many years including *Tetratheca gunnii*, *Caladenia saggicola*, *C. caudata*, *C. tonelli*, *Prasophyllum milfordense*, *Eucalyptus morrisbyi*, *E. gunnii* subsp. *divartcarta*. We have also undertaken targeted extension surveys for many other rare and poorly known species. To date the majority of this work has been directed by our partners, primarily the senior botanists from the Threatened Species Section of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

We intend to continue working on many of these species, though also recognise that there are other species that need attention and that there are large gaps in the activities required for the recovery of Tasmania's most threatened flora. We also recognise the lack of a current prioritisation of Tasmania's threatened flora recovery actions, with the most recent prioritisation undertaken in 2009¹ difficult to update with new data.

Strategies & Actions

To achieve our vision and purpose, we will focus on the following strategies:

1. Prioritise target species to support a strategic approach to threatened flora conservation;
2. Coordinate volunteer field trips to survey and monitor threatened plants;
3. Work with partners on on-ground recovery projects; and
4. Increase opportunities for TPT members to learn about and share their knowledge of threatened flora.

The actions that will be undertaken to implement these strategies are outlined in Table 1.

¹ [Prioritisation of Threatened Flora and Fauna Recovery Actions for the Tasmanian NRM Regions](#)

Table 1. Actions to implement this plan.

| Strategy | Action | Completion date |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prioritise target species | Undertake a desktop assessment of Tasmania’s threatened flora to support TPT’s threatened species prioritisation | December 2020 |
| | Coordinate a workshop with threatened flora experts to prioritise TPT’s target species | December 2021 |
| Coordinate volunteer field trips | Work with partners to develop annual field trip program | June - August each year |
| | Coordinate field trip program | September – February each year, with out of season events as required |
| | Provide field trip reports to participants and ensure that data is submitted to the NVA | Within 1 month of a field trip |
| | Provide reports to land managers on for field trips that involve threat assessment | Within 1 month of a field trips involving population threat assessments |
| | Secure investment and in-kind support for event coordination and administrative support (2 weeks per year to support current activities) and website maintenance | January each year |
| Work with partners on on-ground recovery projects | Work with partners to develop annual field trip program including working bees to undertake on-ground recovery actions | August each year |
| | Work with partners to support funding applications and lobby to increase resources for threatened flora recovery | December 2025 |
| Increase opportunities for TPT members | Secure investment and in-kind support for event coordination and administrative support (1 week per year to support current activities) | January 2021, and January each year following |
| | Survey TPT members to determine if volunteer coordination and training events are meeting volunteer needs | October 2020, and every two years following |
| | Undertake volunteer training events on topic as determined by TPT member surveys | December 2025 |

Our partners: While TPT works on its own projects we also provide volunteer support for threatened flora conservation projects for a wide range of partners. We work in close cooperation the senior botanists from the Threatened Species Section of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), individuals and businesses with expertise in our target species, public and private land managers and environmental non-government organisations.

Our current and potential partners include:

- State Government - DPIPWE’s Threatened Species Section & Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (The Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre & The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation Program)
- NGO’s – Landcare Tasmania, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, NRM

Regions, Conservation Volunteers Australia

- Individuals and businesses with threatened flora expertise – EcoTas, Enviro-dynamics, North Barker
- Public land managers – local government, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service
- Private land managers – Forico

We undertake a call for projects and field trips in July each year. We use the following questions to help us determine which partner activities we will support:

- What contribution will the work make to threatened flora recovery and conservation outcomes?
- Is the species a TPT priority?
- What is the level of support provided by the partner? Will partners provide technical expertise, insurance, volunteer coordination or data management†?
- Is there a financial benefit to the partner? If so, does this benefit contribute to TPT’s vision and purpose?
- What will be the benefits to volunteers attending the trip?

† There is a requirement that all data collected on TPT coordinated field trips is entered on the Natural Values Atlas and shared with TPT.

Resourcing and investment

Threatened Plants Tasmania requires resources to support the implementation of

this plan, including a small annual allocation towards administrative support for volunteer coordination, training and website maintenance (see Table 1; \$5,000-15,000 per year depending on activity). We are actively investigating the following sources for on-going funding and in-kind contribution.

- An annual call for member donations
- Partner in-kind
- Partner investment
- Grants

We currently receive partner in-kind support from Threatened Species Section (DPIPWE), Landcare Tasmania, Enviro-dynamics, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and have 2019-20 funding for an event coordinator time through the Federal Government’s Community Environment Program Grants.

Our Committee

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