



## THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

# Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum*)

An endangered species

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The Tarengo Leek Orchid is a slender ground orchid, 150–300 mm in height with one or two dark green leaves to 250 mm. Its flowers are pink–mauve with greenish tinges, about 5–7 mm across in a spike of 40–80 mm long. Growing among taller grasses, it is inconspicuous even when in flower.



The species occurs on relatively fertile soil in grassy woodland or natural grassland. It is known from only one site in the ACT (Hall Cemetery) and two sites in NSW (Captains Flat Cemetery and the Tarengo Travelling Stock Reserve near Boorowa).

## CONSERVATION THREATS

**Small population:** Making it at risk from a single catastrophic event.

**Mechanical injury:** Ground disturbance for burials could remove a group of plants with potentially serious consequences for the population as a whole.

**Competition from other native species:** The orchids occur in a vigorous sward of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) that may impact on the orchid's establishment and/or flowering.

**Weed invasion:** Introduced grasses are abundant and increasing in the cemetery.

**Herbicides:** Herbicides used to treat weeds and control plant growth around graves may adversely affect this species.

## SPECIFIC CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

- Preserve the existing ACT population as one of the only three known natural populations where the species survives.
- Maintain as diverse a gene pool as possible consistent with the limitations imposed by only three sites of occurrence.
- Develop successful propagation techniques.
- Provide opportunities for research and enjoyment of the species in the ACT.
- Foster an appreciation of both the natural and cultural heritage values of the Hall Cemetery.

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ACT Government

environment ACT



Helpline: 02 6207 9777

Website: [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)

Email: [EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au](mailto:EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au)



## CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Continued surveillance for the possible presence of the species at other locations.
- Continued monitoring of the species at the Hall Cemetery and undertake analysis to assist in management.
- Finalisation of a management plan based on accurate mapping of the location of the plants.
- Coordination of management actions by the ACT Cemeteries Trust with Environment ACT.
- Implementation of the policy in the Master Plan for the Village of Hall, which seeks an alternative location for future burials, and minimise future burials within the Hall Cemetery.
- Remedial weeding in orchid habitat.
- Liaison to achieve regional approach to conservation of the species.

- Education to raise community awareness and compliance with conservation requirements.

### HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The primary source of information for this Information Sheet is the ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy—Action Plan No. 27 where a full bibliography is available. Action Plans are available from the Environment ACT Website: [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au) or the Arts, Heritage and Environment Information Centre at 12 Wattle Street, Lyneham ACT.

## Acknowledgement

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