THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

Fact Sheet No. 24 TUGGERANONG LIGNUM (*Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong*)

A vulnerable species

The Tuggeranong Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong*) is a sprawling or procumbent shrub, eventually becoming a mounded loosely tangled mass to approximately 1 m high and 1-2 m across. Stems are wiry, brownish, and weakly and irregularly longitudinally striate. Leaves are alternate, persistent, green, not glaucous, simple, petiolate, solitary and well-spaced along the stems. Petioles are 0.5 to 3 mm long and leaf blades 5-13 mm long by 2-4 mm wide, showing considerable variation in form. Inflorescences are terminal (sometimes on short lateral branches) or very rarely axillary, simple or 2-branched, ranging from 12-20 mm from the subtending leaf to the apex; and bear 3-9 flowers in a lax spike. Flowers are unisexual or rarely hermaphrodite, and cream-green in colour. Plants are also mostly unisexual.

Conservation threats

The main threat to survival of this population and therefore the species is likely to be deliberate or unintended actions associated with visitor and/or land management activities in the local area. It is not clear whether grazing animals such as kangaroos may also pose a threat or whether such grazing may benefit the species by keeping competing grass tussocks and other plant growth short and open.

The objectives of the Action Plan are to preserve the existing ACT population as it is the *only known location* where the species survives and manage the habitat so that natural ecological processes continue to operate.

Conservation actions

Due to the nature and small size of the site containing the species, management actions will be directed towards maintaining existing conditions and ensuring that activities located nearby do not adversely affect the site. Management actions will include:

- ongoing monitoring of plants;
- encouraging research into the species;
- avoiding incompatible activities near the sites, such as development of facilities and recreational usage;
- maintaining a low profile for sites where the species is located, with no signs or fencing to be put in place;
- indicating appropriate statements of intended management actions in relevant plans and strategies;
- seeking expert advice on best practices with regard to management of the species, including the need and potential for *ex situ* conservation measures to be taken; and
- no track development near the site, so that visitor access to the area where the species is located is not encouraged.

The primary source of information for this Fact Sheet is the conservation **Action Plan** where a full bibliography is available.

Action Plans are available from the Environment ACT Homepage:

http://act.gov.au/environ

Environment ACT Helpline: (02) 6207 9777

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