

Plant Cuttings – July 2025

Government fails to protect dozens of WA threatened ecological communities – ABC News, 2 July 2025

More than two thirds of Western Australia's threatened ecological communities (TECs) are ineffectively monitored and protected, with an auditor general's inquiry exposing the state's failure to act under its own conservation laws.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has made little progress in monitoring or protecting 72 per cent of TECs, according to the report by Auditor General Caroline Spencer.

Recovery plans were either interim or outdated, with none approved by the environment minister.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-02/wa-government-failing-threatened-ecological-communities/105480876>

Multicolour menace: these hardy daisies love Australian conditions – and are taking over roadsides – The Guardian, 6 July 2025

Scattered across Victoria's north-west Mallee region is a sea of yellow, orange and green. To the untrained eye, these plants could be mistaken for wildflowers. But ecologist Fiona Murdoch isn't fooled.

"My daughter is 19 now, but I remember dropping her at the kindergarten bus stop, and a little path of gazania was there, so I went to get rid of it," she says. "It spread all the way up the road and to her kinder, and I realised how invasive it was."

Since then, Murdoch, who founded Mallee Conservation and is the secretary of stewardship organisation Land Covenanters Victoria, has made a point of controlling the spread of gazania near her property. "It's been 15 years of constant vigilance," she says.

Gazantias are brightly coloured daisies native to South Africa and have long been recognised as an environmental weed in Australia. But new research has found they are emerging as a highly invasive plant in grain production systems and grasslands, suffocating crops and costing farmers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/jul/06/gazania-daisies-invasive-species-council-australian-nurseries>

Winton Wetlands temporary closure sparks concern pest numbers could 'explode' – ABC News, 8 July 2025

An ecologist is sounding the alarm on the temporary closure of Victoria's world-class Winton Wetlands, warning the decision could lead to decades of research going down the drain and that the site could be overrun by feral species.

The wetlands, about 20 kilometres from the town of Benalla in the state's north-east, span 9,000 hectares and are home to hundreds of species of birds, plants and reptiles.

Last week, a committee managing the nationally significant site announced in a statement that despite support from the state government and its partners, it was unable to establish a sustainable business model for the wetlands.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-08/winton-wetlands-temporary-closure-sparks-environmental-concerns/105503234>

Invasive Amazon frogbit weed found for first time in the Northern Territory – ABC News, 11 July 2025

One of the "world's worst weeds" that can threaten drinking water supplies and clog irrigation channels has been discovered in Darwin. Amazon frogbit is a fast-growing, floating aquatic plant that can grow half a metre deep in rivers. This is the first discovery of the plant in the Northern Territory, where it is a declared weed that should not be introduced.

The frogbit was spotted in a social media post from someone living in Darwin's northern suburbs, NT weeds officer Peter Ross said.

"He wasn't sure what type of plant it was and whether anyone knew what it was," Mr Ross said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2025-07-11/amazon-frogbit-weed-found-darwin-fishpond-water-supply/105517872>

Environmental issues sidelined in Tasmanian state election – ABC News, 13 July 2025

Less than a week out from the Tasmanian election, the Liberals and Labor have steered clear of announcements for stronger environmental protection, instead focusing on industries and "brands".

The snap election comes after the State of the Environment report was tabled in parliament last September — the first such report in Tasmania for 15 years, despite it being required every five years. It showed that out of 29 environmental indicators, 16 were deteriorating, six were stable, two were improving and five lacked enough data to be fully known.

This included a worsening situation for threatened flora and fauna, the increasing fragmentation of native vegetation, the spread of invasive weeds and animals, and a lack of reliable data for water quality.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-13/tasmanian-election-environment-sidelined/105515986>

Former Treasury secretary Ken Henry calls for urgent overhaul to environmental protection laws – ABC News, 16 July 2025

Australia's environment protection laws have both failed to stop the degradation of Australia's natural environment and held back economic growth, former Treasury secretary Ken Henry has warned.

In a speech being delivered at the National Press Club on Wednesday, Dr Henry is calling for an urgent overhaul of Australia's environment laws, saying changes are needed in this term of parliament.

"The stakes are high," he argues. "We have whole industries with business models built on the destruction of the natural world. "I am angry at our failures. But we should all be angry at our collective failure to design economic structures, including environmental regulations, that underpin confidence in a better future for our children and grandchildren.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-16/fmr-treasury-secretary-ken-henry-urgent-environmental-reform/105536744>

DBCA documents reveal damage to rare forest after hundreds of trees felled by controlled burn – ABC News, 16 July 2025

Internal Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) documents have revealed the full extent of damage caused by a prescribed burn that felled hundreds of rare native trees along Western Australia's south coast.

Giant red tangles are the largest buttressing species of eucalyptus in the world and only grow in a small parcel of forest 400 kilometres south of Perth, known as the Valley of the Giants.

The trees, which can live for 500 years and reach heights of 80 metres, are considered under threat by global authorities. But they are targeted as part of WA's controlled burning program that is designed to reduce the bushfire risk across the state's south.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-16/giant-red-tingle-trees-felled-controlled-burn-wa-south-coast/105512970>

Amid Heart Morass revival in Gippsland, RMIT reveals wetlands climate benefits – ABC News, 17 July 2025

Almost 20 years after restoration efforts began, the Heart Morass wetland near Sale, eastern Victoria, is flourishing — a rare success story in a region where many freshwater wetlands are degraded.

Gippsland local and duck-hunting enthusiast Gary Howard began restoring the large wetland wedged between the Thomson and Latrobe rivers in 2006.

"In my early days it was very much drummed into me — if you are going to hunt, you must conserve," he said.

So began the journey for Mr Howard and his friends to conserve the ecosystem at Heart Morass.

"The Heart wasn't in a very good condition," he said. "It was just coming out of the millennium drought, which was very severe."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-17/wetlands-victoria-heart-morass-restoration-gippsland-lakes/105539786>

The secret stories of trees are written in the knots and swirls of your floorboards. An expert explains how to read them – The Conversation, 17 July 2025

Have you ever examined timber floorboards and pondered why they look the way they do? Perhaps you admired the super-fine grain, a stunning red hue or a swirling knot, and wondered how it came to be?

Or perhaps you don't know what tree species your floorboards are made from, and how to best look after them?

Finely polished floorboards reveal detail about the timber that can be much harder to detect in unpolished boards or other sawn timbers.

"Reading" the knots, stubs and other characteristics of floorboards can reveal what type of tree produced it and how it grew. It can also reveal fascinating details about the lives of the trees they once were.

<https://theconversation.com/the-secret-stories-of-trees-are-written-in-the-knots-and-swirls-of-your-floorboards-an-expert-explains-how-to-read-them-250776>

Australian native fungi spring to life during colder, wetter months – ABC News, 19 July 2025

Deep in native Australian forests is a wonderland that springs to life each winter. It is a mysterious world of colourful toadstools right out of a fairy tale, of bizarre white "cages" that smell of death and decay and of ghostly mushrooms that glow eerily in the dark.

Australia's native macrofungi — those visible fungus forms that can be seen with the naked eye and often appear during the coldest, darkest time of the year — play an essential role within any ecosystem. They are nature's recyclers, fertilisers and rehabilitators.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-19/australian-native-fungi-spring-to-life-during-winter/105482400>

WA holds first aerial cull of feral deer to curb pest population – ABC News, 20 July 2025

A cattle farmer in Western Australia's South West has welcomed the state's first aerial cull of feral deer. The state government decided to take a stand on the pest after surveys in the Esperance and Harvey regions revealed a growing number of feral deer.

Cattle farmer Andrew Keep said he regularly saw groups of up to 12 deer jump the fence into his paddock to graze overnight.

Teams of sharpshooters in helicopters will fly over certain properties, dense bushland and forests, using thermal cameras to spot the deer. Mr Keep said he was glad the government was taking steps to "nip it in the bud" and provided permission for teams to shoot deer if they saw them on his 64-hectare property, east of Harvey.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-20/wa-holds-first-aerial-cull-of-feral-deer-to-curb-pest-population/105495304>

Iconic Aussie park fights to save incredibly rare plant facing 'big threats' – Yahoo News, 27 July 2025

An iconic Aussie park is fighting to save an incredibly rare plant that is facing “big threats” as its population dwindles to just 85. The precious orchid — commonly known as the Northampton midget greenhood or western swan greenhood — can be found in just seven locations in Western Australia’s midwest.

Despite its reputation for being a “tough survivor” due its ability to endure harsh summers and multi-year droughts, serious concerns for its survival have emerged in recent years due to habitat loss from historic land clearing for agriculture and the spread of invasive weeds.

Threats to the species also include changes to hydrology and overland water flow, damage to habitat and plants by pigs, road maintenance and an increasingly drying climate.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/iconic-aussie-park-fights-to-save-incredibly-rare-plant-facing-big-threats-034152586.html>

Gardeners recruited to help save critically endangered Tumut grevillea – ABC News, 28 July 2025

Ecologists have enlisted dozens of southern New South Wales residents to help repopulate a critically endangered blossoming shrub.

The Tumut grevillea has fewer than 1,000 plants left in the wild and is only found in a 6-kilometre stretch of land alongside the Goobarragandra River, in the Snowy Mountains.

As part of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water's (DCCEEW) Saving Our Species program, the organisation partnered with Riverina Local Land Services (LLS) to deliver a series of educational workshops on the native shrub.

More than 45 people attended, including adults and children from Tumut and surrounding areas, and were given cuttings and taught propagation techniques to try to grow it at home.

LLS senior officer Cherie White said she hoped the workshops inspired a new generation of people to save the plant.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-28/tumut-residents-saving-endangered-snowy-mountains-grevillea/105571796>

As Elsternwick golf course turns into a nature reserve, 'ham-fisted' tree removal concerns residents – ABC News, 28 July 2025

A decade after an inner-Melbourne golf club was earmarked to become a "natural oasis", the loss of established trees as part of its transformation is concerning residents.

As the \$22 million project to turn the former Elsternwick Park golf course into the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve continues, some say too many trees are being felled.

The project, which the Bayside City Council has said will create a "biodiversity refuge" and improve the quality of water flowing into Port Phillip Bay, involves creating wetland areas, a chain of ponds and a wildflower meadow.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-28/elsternwick-golf-course-trees-felled-yalukit-willam-reserve/105576702>

Events and Opportunities

23rd NSW Weeds Conference – Port Macquarie NSW, 4-7 August 2025

The NSW Weeds Conference is regarded as the premier event to discuss weeds and related vegetation and production issues. The conference is a biennially event conducted in partnership with a host council attracting up to 350 attendees from NSW and interstate.

<https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>

Draft listing assessment regarding Ecological Community Listing Eligibility – Pinkwood cool temperate rainforests of southeast NSW and far east Victoria

You are invited to provide your views and supporting reasons about the draft listing assessment and conservation advice regarding:

- the eligibility of *Pinkwood cool temperate rainforests of southeast NSW and far east Victoria* for inclusion on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) list of threatened ecological communities, and
- actions to stop the decline of, or support the recovery, for this ecological community

Closes 6 August 2025

<https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/ecological-community-listing-eligibility-pinkwood-cool-temper>

Draft Conservation Advice including draft listing assessment regarding Ecological Community Listing Eligibility – Illawarra-Shoalhaven shrublands on volcanic outcrops

You are invited to provide your views and supporting reasons about the draft listing assessment and conservation advice regarding:

- the eligibility of *Illawarra-Shoalhaven shrublands on volcanic outcrops* for inclusion on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) list of threatened ecological communities
- actions to stop the decline of, or support the recovery, for this ecological community.

Closes 14 August 2025

<https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/draft-conservation-advice-including-draft-listing-assessment-regarding-on-ecological-community-l>

Ecological Impact Awards – Applications close 31 August 2025

The Ecological Impact Awards have been established by the ESA's Practitioner Engagement Working Group to highlight work with 'big ecological impact' and celebrate the role of practitioners in ecological projects, initiatives and research. The awards aim to showcase

collaborative projects based on robust ecological science and to support opportunities to build on project successes.

In 2025, two different awards will be available:

Award 1: Research – Practitioner Collaborations

Award 2: Practitioner-Led Initiatives (New in 2025)

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/grants-awards/ecological-impact-award/>

9th National NRM Knowledge Conference – Cairns QLD, 8-12 September 2025

Co-hosted by North Queensland regional NRMs (Cape York Natural Resource Management, Gulf Savannah NRM, Terrain NRM, NQ Dry Tropics NRM & NRM Regions Queensland) and running from the 8-12th in and around Cairns, our sector's conference is for anyone working, participating or interested in natural resource management – to share, learn and inspire.

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/articles/9th-national-nrm-knowledge-conference/>

15th Biennial International Society for Seed Science Conference 2025 – Perth WA, 15-19 September 2025

The International Society for Seed Science fosters research, education, and communication in the scientific understanding of seeds, and the ISSS 2025 will bring together, for the first time, two of the Society's premier events as a joint conference to celebrate seeds and to inspire synergies across the seed science community.

<https://iss2025.com.au/>

Building Private Land Conservation in Western Australia – Fremantle WA, 16-17 September 2025

Western Australia is home to 8 of 15 national biodiversity hotspots making it a significant area of interest for conservation efforts. With the right policy and support from government, we can revitalise WA's dormant covenanting program and attract funding for public-private partnerships for protected areas creation in Western Australia.

The symposium will bring together leaders from private and public conservation organisations across Australia to explore the future direction of private-land conservation in WA.

<https://events.humanitix.com/building-private-land-conservation-in-western-australia>

Australasian Seed Science Conference – Horsham VIC, 22-25 September 2025

Hosted by the Australian Grains Genebank and Australian Seed Bank Partnership, the ASSC2025 is a leading conference exploring research and innovation across the agricultural and biodiversity conservation sectors. This conference provides a platform for Australasian

seed researchers, industries, policymakers, and communities to promote research, insights, technologies, and exchange ideas on how we can address similar scientific, legal and policy challenges.

<https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/events/assc25/>

Dieback Information Group (DIG) Conference 2025 – Perth WA, 23-25 September

The DIG Conference serves as a dynamic platform for national and international Dieback stakeholders from diverse sectors to come together, exchange ideas, and advance the collective understanding of Phytophthora Dieback and other environmental biosecurity challenges.

This year's conference theme "Strength in Our Roots" – emphasises the vital role of grassroots leadership and community empowerment in environmental biosecurity.

<https://www.dwg.org.au/dig-2025/>

2025 National Landcare Conference – Gold Coast QLD, 21-24 September 2025

The program dates for 2025 are:

Sunday 21 September – First Nations Gathering and NextGen Summit

Monday 22 September – Conference and Welcome Reception

Tuesday 23 September – Conference and 2025 National Landcare Awards Gala Dinner

Wednesday 24 September – Field Trip Program.

We welcome Landcare champion and ABC TV presenter, Costa Georgiadis, as the master of ceremonies for both the National Landcare Conference and National Landcare Awards events.

<https://nationallandcareconference.org.au/>

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<https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/events/assc25/>

Australian Land Conservation Alliance 2025 Annual Conference – Cairns QLD, 7-10 October 2025

Across Australia and beyond, diverse communities, businesses, and organisations are leading with solutions that tackle the biggest environmental challenges of our time by enabling, delivering, and scaling conservation, land management, and restoration action.

The 2025 ALCA Conference will showcase these efforts, celebrating the people and partnerships driving this work: from Australia's First Nations leaders to dedicated conservation, farming and business professionals, community volunteers, and local champions— their collective onground efforts strengthen the cross-sector and cross-cultural solutions we urgently need.

<https://www.alcaconference.org.au/>

2025 BGANZ Congress - Advancing our reach: Innovation and leadership in botanic gardens – Canberra ACT, 2-5 November 2025

The next BGANZ Congress will be in Canberra, on Ngunnawal Country. The main venue will be Old Parliament House (OPH), with unique social events at both OPH and the gardens, and field trips from subalpine regions to the sea, as well as our national public institutions focusing on education and horticulture.

Congress attendees will have the opportunity to share knowledge and experience to advance the role of botanic gardens and arboreta as globally recognised centres of excellence for plant science, conservation, education, and outreach.

<https://www.bganzt.org.au/2025-bganzt-congress-2/>