

A Plant Conservation Strategy For Wellington Conservancy, Department Of Conservation, New Zealand

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The Wellington Conservancy Plant Conservation Strategy has been published recently by the Department of Conservation. That strategy describes the Department's responsibilities for the conservation of indigenous plants in the Wellington Conservancy.

Wellington Conservancy is one of the fourteen administrative regions of New Zealand's Department of Conservation and is situated in the lower half of North Island. The strategy was prepared by Raewyn Empson and John Sawyer with assistance from many people including staff at the Wellington Botanic Gardens and members of the Wellington Botanical Society.

A checklist of indigenous plant taxa of greatest conservation concern in the region is included in the strategy. That checklist includes: plant taxa which are threatened and in danger of extinction nationally or regionally; plant taxa found only in the conservancy (local endemic); plant taxa important for the survival of other threatened taxa; plant taxa for which limited information is available about their geographical distribution or their status in the wild.

Objectives for management of indigenous plant taxa are included in the strategy and many of the tasks to be undertaken to protect (and where necessary to restore) the indigenous plants of the region are described. The role of the Wellington Plant Conservation Network is also described in the strategy. The Network is a group of agencies and individuals such as: representatives from local authorities (city and regional councils); expert growers of indigenous plants; the Wellington Botanical Society and the Department of Conservation. Network members meet annually to take on responsibilities for plant conservation work.

At this time the Network is focused on ex situ cultivation of threatened species to generate material for future species recovery projects. The Department of Conservation is focused on working with landowners to protect surviving wild plant populations of threatened species. Future work will include ecological restoration of the plant communities in which threatened species are found and continued protection and inspection of existing wild populations of those species.

Copies of the strategy may be purchased (price NZ \$15) from Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation, Box 5086, Wellington, New Zealand, and it is also available from libraries. More information about the strategy, the regional plant database and current species recovery projects may be obtained by contacting the Wellington Conservancy as above.

Reference:

Empson R. A. and Sawyer J. W. D. 1996. **Plant Conservation Strategy - Wellington Conservancy**. Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand.

Publications of Interest

Conservation and Biodiversity. Andrew P. Dobson. 1996. New York: Scientific American Library.

This book begins with discussions of species diversity, extinction rates, & how the amount of risk for an endangered species is determined. The author then goes on to discuss the ins & outs of attempts to manage endangered species & the economics of different conservation strategies. Dobson describes the changes in animal populations before & after management attempts, & he analyses the function of zoos & attempts to reintroduce species into the wild.

Habitat Restoration In Northern Victoria: A Guide to Principles and Practice. 1995. Steve Hamilton. Dookie College: Dookie Campus of the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture Ltd.

The Flooded Gum Trees: Land Use and Management of River Red Gums in NSW. 1995. Nick Wilson. Sydney: Nature Conservation Council of NSW.



Sawyer, John O. 1997. "A plant conservation strategy for Wellington Conservatory, Department of Conservation, New Zealand." *Danthonia: newsletter of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation* 5(4), 10–10.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.374047>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.374047>

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