



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Consultation Document on Listing Eligibility and Conservation Actions — 2 species endemic to Western Australia

You are invited to provide your views about:

- 1) the eligibility of 2 species assessed by the Western Australian Government using the [Common Assessment Method](#) for inclusion on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) threatened species list:
 - *Rhizanthella gardneri* (Western Underground Orchid)
 - *Rhizanthella johnstonii* (South Coast Underground Orchid)
- 2) the necessary conservation actions for the above species.

The views of experts, stakeholders and the general public are welcome. Responses can be provided by any interested person.

Anyone may nominate a native species, ecological community or key threatening process for listing, transfer to a new category, or deletion from the threatened species list under the EPBC Act. The Threatened Species Scientific Committee (the Committee) undertakes the assessment of species to determine eligibility for inclusion in the list of threatened species and provides its recommendation to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment.

Responses are to be provided in writing either by email to:
species.consultation@environment.gov.au

or by mail to:

The Director
Species Information and Policy Section
Biodiversity Conservation Division
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
PO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Responses are required to be submitted by 15 April 2020.

General background information about listing threatened species

The Australian Government helps protect species at risk of extinction by listing them as threatened under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. Once listed under the EPBC Act, the species becomes a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and must be protected from significant impacts through the assessment and approval provisions of the EPBC Act. More information about threatened species is available on the department's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/index.html>.

Public nominations to list threatened species under the EPBC Act are received annually by the department. In order to determine if a species is eligible for listing as threatened under the EPBC Act, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (the Committee) undertakes a rigorous scientific assessment of its status to determine if the species is eligible for listing against a set of criteria. These criteria are available on the Department's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/pubs/guidelines-species.pdf>.

As part of the assessment process, the Committee consults with the public and stakeholders to obtain specific details about the species, as well as advice on what conservation actions might be appropriate. Information provided through the consultation process is considered by the Committee in its assessment. The Committee provides its advice on the assessment (together with comments received) to the Minister for the Environment (the Minister) regarding the eligibility of the species for listing under a particular category and what conservation actions might be appropriate. The Minister decides to add, or not to add, the species to the list of threatened species under the EPBC Act. More detailed information about the listing process is at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations.html>.

To promote the recovery of listed threatened species and ecological communities, conservation advices and where required, recovery plans are made or adopted in accordance with Part 13 of the EPBC Act. Conservation advices provide guidance at the time of listing on known threats and priority recovery actions that can be undertaken at a local and regional level. Recovery plans describe key threats and identify specific recovery actions that can be undertaken to enable recovery activities to occur within a planned and logical national framework. Information about recovery plans is available on the department's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery.html>.

Information about this consultation process

Responses to this consultation can be provided electronically or in hard copy to the contact addresses provided on Page 1. All responses received will be provided in full to the Committee and then to the Minister.

In providing comments, please provide references to published data where possible. Should the Committee use the information you provide in formulating its advice, the information will be attributed to you and referenced as a 'personal communication' unless you provide references or otherwise attribute this information (please specify if your organisation requires that this information is attributed to your organisation instead of yourself). The final advice by the Committee will be published on the department's website following the listing decision by the Minister.

Information provided through consultation may be subject to freedom of information legislation and court processes. It is also important to note that under the EPBC Act, the deliberations and recommendations of the Committee are confidential until the Minister has made a final decision on the nomination, unless otherwise determined by the Minister.

Privacy notice

The Department will collect, use, store and disclose the personal information you provide in a manner consistent with the Department's obligations under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the Department's Privacy Policy.

Any personal information that you provide within, or in addition to, your comments in the threatened species assessment process may be used by the Department for the purposes of its functions relating to threatened species assessments, including contacting you if we have any questions about your comments in the future.

Further, the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments have agreed to share threatened species assessment documentation (including comments) to ensure that all States and Territories have access to the same documentation when making a decision on the status of a potentially threatened species. This is also known as the '[common assessment method](#)'. As a result, any personal information that you have provided in connection with your comments may be shared between Commonwealth, State or Territory government entities to assist with their assessment processes.

The Department's Privacy Policy contains details about how respondents may access and make corrections to personal information that the Department holds about the respondent, how respondents may make a complaint about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle, and how the Department will deal with that complaint. A copy of the Department's Privacy Policy is available at: <http://environment.gov.au/privacy-policy>

Your details

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Phone:

Email:

Consultation questions for species

PART 1 – INFORMATION TO AID LISTING ASSESSMENT

1. Do you have any additional information in the **ecology or biology** of the species?
[Please note; information for similar sub/species may enable plausible inferences to be made, if not available for the species.]
2. Can you provide any additional information or estimates on **longevity, average life span or generation length** for the species?
3. Do you have additional information to support an **estimate of the current population size** of mature adults of the species (national extent)?
4. Do you have additional information on **population trends** over 3 generations, or an historic population size for the species (national extent)?
5. Do you have additional information on **current range** (national extent) or **location of populations** for the species?
6. Can you provide additional information on any **change in range or location of populations**, or an **historic range** (national extent)?

PART 2 – INFORMATION FOR CONSERVATION ADVICE ON THREATS AND CONSERVATION ACTIONS

7. Do you further information on the historic, current or potential **threats** facing the species?
8. Do you have further information on current or potential **management actions** to support protection and recovery of the species?
9. Do you have further information on current or potential **monitoring or research activities** for the species?
10. Are you aware of **other knowledge** (e.g. traditional ecological knowledge) that may help better understand the threats and management actions to aid recovery of the species?
11. Are you aware of any **cultural importance or use** that the species has?
12. What **individuals or organisations** are currently, or potentially could be, involved in management and recovery of the species?

PART 3 – ANY OTHER INFORMATION

13. Do you have comments on any other matters relevant to the assessment of the species?