

# Crimson spider orchid

*Caladenia concolor*  
**Endangered**

## Target: monitor natural population and bolster through propagation and reintroduction

Over the last five years, *Saving our Species* (SoS) has conducted population monitoring, collected seed and propagated the crimson spider orchid (*Caladenia concolor*), with the reintroduction of propagated plants into the wild set for winter 2021. Only two populations, totalling around 600 individuals, of this striking ground orchid occur in New South Wales: one on hills near Albury, and the other in Benambra National Park. The Albury population has been monitored since the mid-1990s; however, the Benambra population was only found in 2017 while conducting pollinator surveys to determine if the site was appropriate for reintroduction.

The main threats facing this orchid relate to its small population size and lack of recruitment, so propagation and reintroduction to bolster the existing wild population are key to its long-term survival. This project is part of the Wild Orchids Project, which is led by the SoS program in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Murray Local Land Services, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Forestry Corp of NSW, Australian Network of Plant Conservation and the NSW Environmental Trust. There are about 2000 seedlings ready to plant in winter 2021 as part of this project, which will be the largest orchid propagation and reintroduction in Australia.

### Trajectory: fluctuating

There is insufficient data to show a meaningful trend yet. However, numbers have declined from 2017 despite there being no threatening processes (such as browsing or human disturbance) in Benambra National Park.

