

Wee Jasper grevillea

Grevillea iaspicula
Critically endangered

Target: secure the wild population through installation of fencing, weed control, feral goat control and enhancement plantings

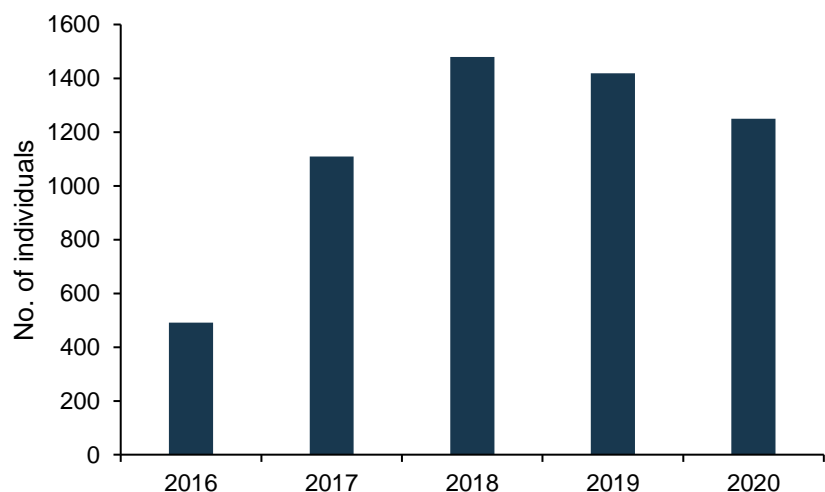
Over the last five years, the *Saving our Species* (SoS) program has increased the wild population of Wee Jasper grevillea (*Grevillea iaspicula*) through installation of fencing to protect plants from stock and feral goat browsing, weed control, feral goat culling and enhancement plantings. This grevillea was discovered in 1980 and is only found on limestone rock outcrops in a very restricted area between Wee Jasper and Lake Burrinjuck on the NSW Southern Tablelands. Land clearing and grazing by domestic stock have severely fragmented this species' population. Currently there are five known populations, each of which is an SoS priority management site, and three of these sites are on private land.

Efforts to manage the threats to this species have occurred since its discovery, and significant strides have been made under the SoS project since 2016. Most notable outcomes to date include:

- significant population increases across all sites, from a total population of **120** in 2000 to now over **1250 plants**
- fencing and protecting approximately **30 hectares** of Wee Jasper grevillea habitat from browsing stock and feral goats.

Trajectory: increasing

The combination of several management actions has led to an overall population increase of Wee Jasper grevillea plants in the last five years. However, severe drought in 2017–18 resulted in an overall small net population decline in 2019–20.



Partners

This project is coordinated by the SoS program, in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), which assisted in fence maintenance, feral animal control and access to sites. NSW Crown Lands have assisted with a boat to access difficult sites, and a volunteer has assisted with weed control.

What did we find?

Over the last five years we have seen increasing Wee Jasper grevillea numbers at all sites in response to the implementation of SoS management actions, aside from an overall small population decline in 2019–20 due to severe drought. Following the loss of all adult plants at the Burrinjuck site due to goats, the regeneration of the species was partially in response to the exclusion of goats and regular fence maintenance by NPWS and SoS. Through this project, approximately 30 hectares of habitat has been fenced and invasive blackberry has been reduced to less than 5% across this area. The population of the Wee Jasper grevillea now totals 1250 plants compared to just 120 in 2000.

Regular monitoring has been undertaken since 2016, and the data show a steady increase in the populations at all sites, until the severe 2017–19 drought led to significant death of plants at all but one of the sites. This caused an overall population decline, however, with the breaking of the drought it's assumed the populations will increase. The variable impacts of drought across the Wee Jasper grevillea sites highlights why it was so important to have multiple sites for this species.

The future of the Wee Jasper grevillea rests in this SoS project, with weed control, seed collection and expansion of the current enhancement plantings all planned for the future.



The limestone rock outcrop habitat of the Wee Jasper grevillea. Photo: Alex Pike/DPIE

Back from the brink: enhancement plantings

- Seeds are collected and propagated from wild grevilleas.
- Some of the planted seedlings have commenced flowering as soon as 18 months after planting and it is expected that the plantings will start to produce significant seed by the time they are 3–5 years old.
- Recruitment from previous plantings has occurred at one Burrinjuck site where the plantings had reached only 6 years of age before they were killed by drought.



Seed pods collected from a Wee Jasper grevillea. Photo: Alex Pike/DPIE

Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program delivered by the Environment, Energy and Science Group in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. To find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the *Saving our Species* program, visit the [Saving our Species Program webpage](#).