

Threatened and Priority Plant Species

Rules in Plain English for PWS Reserve Key Values Reporting:

1. Plants Significance Rule:

Method:

Treatment of NVA Record data: Extract records only for native, (vascular and non-vascular) plant species that are in the current census, and include extinct species.

Remove:

- records that have a position accuracy of more than 1km; and
- records that have a position accuracy of exactly 1km, but only if they are older than 50 years; and
- records where Observation State Qualifier = Locally Extinct

Label the records with a unique ID that relates to the 100m grid cell that they are within.

Records that are within the same grid cell are considered to be at the same 'location'.

Species within a reserve have been identified as **significant* if they meet one of the criteria:

- Is listed under the TSPA or the EPBCA (including extinct) (i.e. all records of threatened species in all reserves get at least one star). (Where schedules are in progress, treat the species as if they are already in the threatened category); or
- is a native watchlist species – for vascular species only.

*Note that the term 'significant' in this document is applied to mean 'worthy of attention'. It is not applied in any statistical sense.

- **Star Rating System**

Significant species are assigned a star rating that is determined by their threat status and geographic range within reserves as a proportion of state-wide extent (see Table 1).

Geographic extent of each significant species in a reserve is determined by the number of 100 m cells ("locations") that contain one or more records within each reserve. Total geographic extent of a species is determined by the number of 100m cells that contain the species across all of Tasmania.

Table 1. Star rating for ‘significant’ plant species within reserves.

	90% to 100% of observed locations statewide	50% to <90% of observed locations statewide or it is the only reserve that it is recorded in	20% to <50% of observed locations statewide	< 20% of observed locations statewide
CR, E, VU	*****	****	***	**
e, v	****	***	**	*
r or Extinct	***	**	*	*
Native watchlist	***	**	*	

Further, add 1* if the species is endemic (except for EPBC-listed species) or is phylogenetically significant (or both). The maximum total number of stars to be allocated is 5.

EPBC Act: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EX = Presumed Extinct; TSP Act: e = endangered, v = vulnerable, r = rare, x = presumed extinct

2. PPP Analysis

In 2009, the Project Prioritisation Protocol (PPP) was applied to 189 plant species which are listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Presumed Extinct under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or listed as endangered or vulnerable under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*¹. Of the 189 species, 116 species were deemed by experts to require active management to ensure the species’ security over a 50-year time-frame, 45 species were considered be secure without active management, and 28 were classed as ‘data deficient’. Key populations were identified for the 116 species that require active management; these are considered to be the ‘priority populations’ for these species in Tasmania.

PPP populations are flagged with 5 stars in each reserve, excluding those species that have been delisted since the original PPP analysis, and excluding those species for which the PPP actions are no longer considered relevant (due to new information). This 5-star rating is in addition to the star rating that was assigned in the plant significance analysis.

¹ Threatened Species Section (2010). *Prioritisation of Threatened Flora and Fauna Recovery Actions for the Tasmanian NRM Regions*. Nature Conservation Report 10/03. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Hobart.