SECURING THE FUTURE PROJECT

Preventing extinction of 10 threatened plants from SA, Vic & WA through seed collecting, germination trials, research, propagation & translocations

An initiative of the

Australian Seed Bank Partnership

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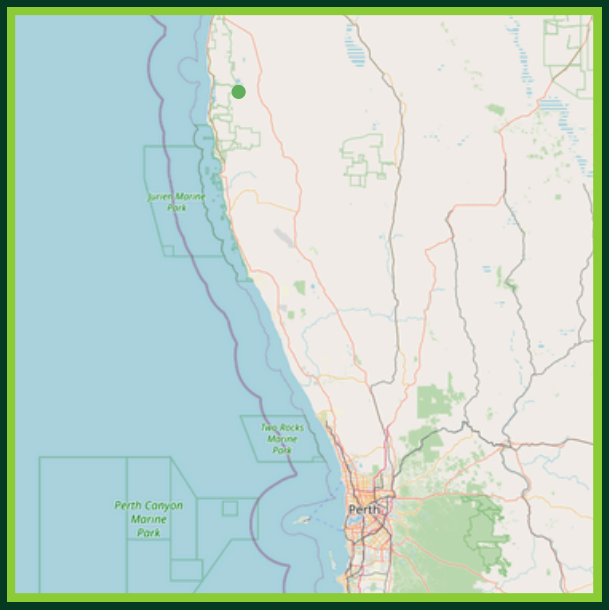

SPECIES PROFILE

EREMOPHILA SUBANGUSTIFOLIA

This erect and many-branching shrub grows up to 2.5 m tall, and emits a strong, slightly unpleasant odour. It's young stems and the undersides of narrow cylindrical leaves are densely covered with whitish hairs, giving a greyish appearance.

It has attractive tubular pale purplish flowers with a white throat with purplish spots. It reproduces from dry, oval-shaped, hairless and wrinkly fruits which follow on from the flowers.

Narrow-leaf Eremophila is found in a small area of WA's Lesueur Sandplain, on the edges of winter-wet flats, lakes, or low lying areas. The species is known from two separate populations which were likely a single population prior to clearing for agriculture.

KEY FACTS

Common name: Narrow-leaf Eremophila

Conservation status: Critically Endangered (EPBC), Critically Endangered (WA)

Historical notes: Formally described in 2018 after previously being considered a narrow leaf form of *Eremophila microtheca*

Flowering season: June - October

Lifespan: Perennial - long lived

This profile was produced in collaboration with **Plant Conservation Australia** (formerly the ANPC)

***Eremophila subangustifolia* flowers**
(Image: Andrew Crawford)




THREATENING PROCESSES

The Narrow-leaf eremophila faces several threats, including poor natural recruitment, competition from invasive weeds, and inappropriate fire regimes. Populations located near roads and fence lines are at risk from maintenance activities. Young plants are particularly vulnerable to grazing by livestock and rabbits. In addition, drought and changes to normal wet-season patterns pose a significant threat, as this species depends on seasonally wet habitats to survive.

The priority actions for this species include stock management to reduce grazing pressure, and also weed control measures to reduce competition. Plants along the roadsides and fence lines also need to be monitored and protected. Appropriate fire regimes also need to be maintained through the use of burns. Lastly, there needs to be a genetically diverse seed collection maintained in a seed bank to propagate and boost the stock of wild populations

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Under the **Securing the Future project**, conservation of the Narrow-leaf Eremophila achieved significant progress through the combined efforts of the Western Australian Seed Centre (Kensington), Yamatji Rangers, and WA Parks and Wildlife staff (DBCA).

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Over 11,000 seeds were collected and tested in four germination trials, each achieving success rates above 90%, providing critical data for future restoration work. Using these germinants, 397 seedlings were planted at a designated translocation site in August 2024, followed by another 112 in June 2025 bringing the total to 509 translocated plants. These plantings were carefully planned to strengthen wild populations and improve genetic resilience.

Seed and seedling images captured during the project will assist with long-term monitoring and field identification. With strong ex situ foundations and real-world restoration underway, the project has laid groundwork for a brighter future for this rare and remarkable species.

REFERENCES

- Images: Planting seedlings (Alanna Smith), seedling (Simone Dudley), flowers (Andrew Brown), fruit (Andrew Crawford).
- https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/action-plan/priority-plants/narrow-leaf-eremophila
- https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/taxon/apni/51447436
- Brown et al 2018 "*Eremophila subangustifolia* (Scrophulariaceae), a rare new species from the Mid West Region of Western Australia, with notes on *E. microtheca*", *Nuytsia,* vol 29, pg 17-20.

Australian Government

We acknowledge the Priority Species Grant provided by the Australian Government's Saving Native Species Program to improve outcomes for priority plants in the Threatened Species Action Plan.

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