

# Action Statement

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

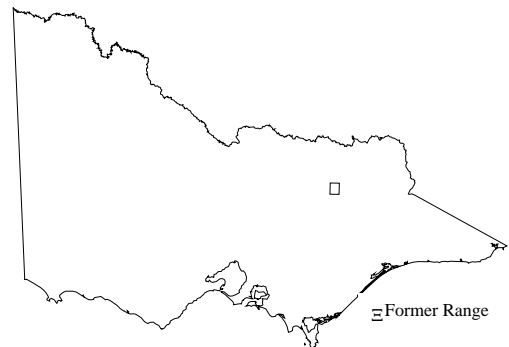
No. 140

## Buffalo Leek-orchid

### *Prasophyllum suttonii*

#### Distribution

The Buffalo Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum suttonii* is endemic to Victoria, having occurred in the Victorian Alps Bioregion (confined to the Mt Buffalo Plateau). Specific population localities are unknown. No precise records exist to indicate its former distribution, but likely to have been a short-range endemic. It is now considered extinct. The species was last collected in December 1902 by C. S. Sutton. The former distribution and abundance is unknown but likely to have been naturally rare with extremely small population size. The Buffalo Leek-orchid occurred at Mt Buffalo National Park which is managed by Parks Victoria (Victoria East Region).



Distribution in Victoria (DSE 2004)

#### Habitat

Habitat is unknown.

#### Conservation status

##### National conservation status

The Buffalo Leek-orchid has not been listed under the Commonwealth **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**.

An assessment under the IUCN Red List criteria (2000) undertaken by Coates *et al.* (2002) determined the Buffalo Leek-orchid to be Extinct.

##### Victorian conservation status

The Buffalo Leek-orchid has been listed as threatened under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**.

The Buffalo Leek-orchid is considered extinct in Victoria (DSE 2003).

#### Decline and threats

The causes of the extinction of Buffalo Leek-orchid are unknown. The common and widespread taxon, referred to in most of the literature as *Prasophyllum suttonii*, was recently described as *P. alpestre* D.L. Jones (Jones 1998). Searches have failed to relocate the population, and re-discovery is highly unlikely.

#### Existing conservation measures

- Searches were undertaken in January 2002.

## Conservation objectives

To confirm that the Buffalo Leek-orchid is extinct.

## Intended management actions

*The intended management actions listed below are further elaborated in DSE's Actions for Biodiversity Conservation database. Detailed information about the actions and locations, including priorities, is held in this system and will be provided annually to land managers and other authorities.*

1. Maintain awareness among staff of Mount Buffalo NP regarding the earlier existence of Buffalo Leek-orchid and how to recognise it.

*Responsibility: Parks Victoria*

2. Ensure that any possible new sightings are carefully documented and verified by relevant experts.

*Responsibility: Parks Victoria*

3. Ensure that the Buffalo Leek-orchid is listed as extinct under relevant legislation and in authoritative lists.

*Responsibility: DSE (Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division)*

## References

DSE (2004) *Flora Information System* (electronic flora database). Department of Sustainability and Environment: Melbourne.

DSE (2003) *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria - 2003*. Department of Sustainability and Environment: East Melbourne. (available on the DSE web site)

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Further information can be obtained from Department of Sustainability and Environment Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statements are available from the Department of Sustainability and Environment website: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

This Action Statement has been prepared under section 19 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 under delegation from Professor Lyndsay Neilson, Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment, September 2003.

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