

ACACIA ATTENUATA – Threatened plant of the Fraser Coast

December 2011

Who am I?

Whipstick wattle (*Acacia attenuata*) is a slender shrub which occurs on coastal lowland sand plains. It can be present in disturbed areas such as roadsides and the edges of cleared or recently burnt areas.

What do I look like?

The wattle is distinguished by the retention of young feathery bipinnate foliage along with larger adult leaf-like phyllodes. These are blue-green with a prominent midrib and 10 to 14cm long. The young branchlets can be reddish in colour and remain hairless. The flower clusters are cream to pale-yellow and are produced in winter and springtime. Seedpods are slightly flat and about 8-10cm long and 1.5cm wide. The hard-coated seeds are dark brown and 5-6mm long.

Where do I live?

I am found in coastal sandy areas at Burrum Heads, Maroom, Poona, Tinnanbar and inland as far as the eastern side of Tinana Creek.



Whipstick wattle may occur next to urban areas

How am I protected?

Whipstick wattle is classed Vulnerable and protected under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and State *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as well as Council planning regulations



Why am I threatened?

Whipstick wattle is a native plant that is restricted to only a small part of Australia. It has been impacted by loss and fragmentation of habitat due to urban development and inappropriate fire regimes. It is also under threat due to its small population size.

It is a short lived species that has a life span of between five and ten years. As a fast growing pioneer it can reach up to 2m in the first year and start seeding after two years. Plants are often killed by fire but seeds present in the soil will often sprout to produce new seedlings afterwards.

It is important that habitat is not burnt too frequently so that plants can grow up and produce seed.

What Council is doing to protect me?

Council is currently undertaking activities such as:

- Seed collection, propagation and planting;
- Conducting botanical surveys for new populations;
- Placing conditions on development approvals;
- Improving fire management;
- Only clearing habitat where needed for fire safety;
- Developing educational material and encouraging community involvement.