



Whipstick Wattle

(*Acacia Attenuata*)

Threatened plant of the Fraser Coast



Plant Details

Description - slender shrub 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. Seedpods are slightly flat and about 8 - 10cm long and 1.5cm wide. The hard-coated seeds are dark brown and 5-6mm long.

Flower - cream to pale-yellow and are produced in winter and springtime.

Areas found - occurs on coastal lowland sand plains and can be present in disturbed areas such as roadsides and the edges of cleared or recently burnt areas. Identified in coastal sandy areas at Burrum Heads, Maaroom, Poona, Tinnanbar and inland as far as the eastern side of Tinana Creek.

Status - 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.



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Why is it 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?

Council is currently undertaking activities such as:

- Seed collection and propagation;
- Conducting botanical surveys for new populations;
- Placing conditions on development approvals;
- Protecting and restoring threatened habitat; and
- Developing interpretive and educational material.



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