



Cheel's Paperbark

(Melaleuca cheelii)

Threatened plant of the Fraser Coast



Plant Details

Description - Shrub or small tree up to 10 m tall and is distinguished by light coloured papery bark and small opposite rounded leaves only 5 -10 mm long.

Flower - Spring and the flower spikes are up to 2.5 cm long and creamy white.

Fruit - Small woody fruit capsules are 3-5 mm.

Areas found - Wet coastal areas at Burrum Heads, Pacific Haven, Toogoom and Craignish as well as some creek areas further inland at Howard and Duckinwilla.

Status - identified as rare and protected under the State *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.



Why is it threatened?

Cheel's paperbark 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 rural and urban development. It is also under threat due to small population size.

What Council is doing?

Council is currently undertaking a number of activities to protect Cheel's paperbark on the Fraser Coast:

- Managing habitat purchased under the environmental levy to protect the species.
- Seed collection, propagation and planting;
- Conducting botanical surveys for new populations;
- Placing conditions on development approvals;
- Improving fire management;
- Developing educational material and encouraging community involvement.

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