

# Narrow-leafed wilsonia

*Wilsonia backhousei*

**Vulnerable**

**Target: reassess previously known sites, identify threats and collect seeds, if available**

In this *Saving our Species* (SoS) project, targeted surveys for narrow-leafed wilsonia (*Wilsonia backhousei*) were conducted from Jervis Bay to Boydtown, south of Eden, to determine whether plant populations remained at specific sites. The project relocated previously recorded populations, identified critical threats and confirmed its distribution south of Jervis Bay. It was previously thought that the species was associated with coastal environments, yet it has been found in inland saline environments in other States. Thus, the species' distribution appears to be determined by the presence of saline aquatic environments rather than being associated with coastal environments as previously presumed.

This perennial shrub is tolerant of a range of environmental conditions. The largest NSW populations are in locations subjected to daily tidal inundation. Hence, rising sea level poses a significant threat. In addition, some sites have been damaged by recreational vehicles. This project is led by the SoS program in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Bega Valley Shire Council. A key focus has been erecting fencing and signage to prevent illegal access to sites. Future steps will be surveying suitable habitats for new populations and undertaking opportunistic seed collection to conserve the species' long-term viability.

## Trajectory: stable

Surveys were conducted over a 10-month period, and of the 15 sites surveyed 13 had extant populations.

Jervis Bay had the most extensive populations of narrow-leafed wilsonia, and populations varied considerably in size across the species' range in New South Wales.

