

# Perisher wallaby-grass

*Rytidosperma vickeryae*  
**Endangered**

## Target: identify additional populations through surveys and controlling feral animal impacts

Thanks to the funding from the *Saving our Species* (SoS) program, the first comprehensive surveys in over 20 years targeting the Perisher wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma vickeryae*) were conducted in 2017 at known sites and suitable habitat surrounding known sites. Before SoS, the largest surviving populations of this species were thought to be in the Perisher area. The results of these surveys have significantly increased our understanding of this species' extent, habitat and potential threats; and located 13 new sites. The collection of this information has greatly increased our ability to protect the species in situ and provide long-term security.

This small rhizomatous perennial grass occurs in the treeless plains in the high country of Kosciuszko National Park, where it commonly grows along stream edges. The potential threats to this species include disturbance from feral pigs, horses and deer. As part of this project, seeds were collected for long-term conservation. Future steps will be to continue to monitor the status of Perisher wallaby-grass in 20 permanent plots and to monitor emerging threats. This project is led by SoS in partnership with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, who have been involved with field surveys and monitoring.

### Trajectory: increasing

Surveys for this project revealed 15 new sites: nine in the Jagungal Wilderness area and four at Happy Jacks plain. At Perisher, known sites have expanded in area. Additional surveys have provided better knowledge of the species' distribution.

The survey in 2017 did not search all the potential habitat for this species, and it is considered that with more survey, additional populations would be found.

