



SAVING OUR SPECIES

# *Pultenaea* sp.

## Genowlan Point

Critically Endangered

The *Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point – or ‘Genowlan pea’ – is a small shrub which grows to around 1.5 metres with yellow and red flowers. While not yet formally described, it is considered part of the *Pultenaea glabra* species complex, which is the subject of ongoing research.

The Genowlan pea is known from a single tiny population in Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area in the Capertee Valley, north of Lithgow.

This one population is restricted to an exposed rocky area within metres of sheer cliffs! All the individuals in the area occupy exposed sites on shallow soils, with several on narrow ledges over the cliff edge.

The population is associated with open *Eucalyptus sparsifolia* forest with an open shrubby understorey including *Persoonia longifolia*, *Isopogon dawsonii* and *Leucopogon muticus*.

The species is likely to be fire-sensitive with most seeds lying dormant until fire triggers germination (as in other *Pultenaea* species).

Flowers are probably insect-pollinated, and the seeds are dispersed short distances by ants.

**Before 1997, this attractive shrub was unknown to science. Bushwalking botanists Jan Allen and Haydn Washington, while hiking near the Gardens of Stone National Park above the Capertee Valley, came upon an unfamiliar mountain shrub. It is little wonder that it hadn't been recorded before, given there were only 80 or so plants which occupied a tiny 0.15 hectares on a cliff-edge on the rocky, northwest-facing tip of Genowlan Mountain called Genowlan Point.**

**The harsh conditions of the Millennium Drought, as well as 4WD traffic and browsing by goats and wallabies reduced numbers and stopped seedlings from establishing.**

**Numbers dwindled to just eight plants before a rescue operation by conservationists reversed the trend from 2007.**

**As of 2019 the population had grown back to 40, with a reserve population of tubestock held at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens.**

# Support local action and help save the *Genowlan pea*



*Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point, leaves.  
Photo: David Coote/DPIE



*Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point, habitat.  
Photo: David Coote/DPIE

The Genowlan pea is critically endangered in New South Wales mainly as a result of its extreme rarity.

Other threats to the species include:

- browsing and habitat disturbance by wallabies and feral goats
- susceptibility to infection from the root-rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
- potential for cliff fall and landslides
- altered fire regimes that may inhibit recruitment
- disturbance from recreational foot traffic.

Saving our Species (SoS) is working in partnership with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Australian Botanic Gardens at Mount Annan to save the Genowlan pea.

**SoS is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.**

**SoS can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.**

**Find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the SoS program at [environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS)**

**Part of the rescue operation commencing in 2007 involved volunteers taking water to resuscitate the few remaining stressed plants, and chicken wire to construct cages to protect them from browsing.**

The recovery effort aims to:

- reduce the abundance of feral goats and limit the supply of free water in the vicinity of the *Pultenaea*
- exclude wallabies and feral goats from the vicinity of the species
- restrict vehicular access to Genowlan Point
- monitor for signs of *Phytophthora* infection, increase awareness and encourage the observation of hygiene protocols
- consult with proponents and determining authorities regarding potential impacts arising from underground mining
- establish an *ex-situ* population and collect seed as insurance against potential catastrophic events in the future
- undertake research into the ecology and taxonomy of this species and investigate its reproductive biology.

## You too can help

If you want to support managers in looking after the Genowlan Pea or in caring for other threatened species, you can find out more about volunteering and research and conservation projects related to threatened species at [environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS)