

NSW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Determination to make a minor amendment to Schedule 1 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act

The Scientific Committee, established by the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (the Act), has made a determination to make a minor amendment to the list of ENDANGERED SPECIES by omitting *Phaius tancaurvilleae* (Banks ex L'Her.) Blume from Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Act. This determination is made pursuant to Division 5 of Part 2 of the Act.

The Scientific Committee has found that:

1. *Phaius tancaurvilleae* (Banks ex L'Her.) Blume was listed as an endangered species in Part 1 of Schedule 1 at the commencement of the Act. *Phaius australis* F. Muell. was initially listed as a Vulnerable species in Schedule 2 of the Act. In 1998 the Scientific Committee made a Final Determination to list *Phaius australis* as an Endangered species (NSW Scientific Committee, 1998).
2. Records of *Phaius tancaurvilleae* from NSW are now known to have been individuals of *P. australis* F.Muell., Southern Swamp Orchid and *P. tancaurvilleae* is not considered to be native to Australia (Jones 2006, Harrison *et al.*).
3. As a result of this reclassification the botanical description of *Phaius australis* was amended. *Phaius australis*, Southern Swamp Orchid or Lesser Swamp Orchid, is described by Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, (2014) as being a “terrestrial herb to c. 2 m high; pseudobulbs ovoid, 2–7 cm diam. Leaves 4–8 per shoot, 30–70 cm long, 3–10 cm wide; lamina usually oblanceolate, apex acute. Inflorescences racemose, 1 or 2, from the axils of the lower leaves, 70–110 cm long, 5–20-flowered, stiffly erect. Sepals and lateral petals free, white on the outside, red-brown with yellow veins on the inside. Sepals 3.5–6 cm long, 0.8–1.0 mm wide, oblong-acuminate. Lateral petals 3.3–4.5 cm long, 0.8–1.3 mm wide. Labellum lamina 2.8–5.5 mm long, 1.7–4.5 mm wide, red-brown with a yellow keel inside; spur 5–10 mm long” 2014.
4. *Phaius australis* is the only member of the genus found in New South Wales and is not easily confused with any other species of orchid in the state.
5. The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that an amendment to the Schedule is necessary to reflect a reclassification of a species into further species as a result of taxonomic revision.

Professor Michelle Leishman
Chairperson
NSW Scientific Committee

References:

Harrison DK, Kwan H, Johnston ME (2005). Molecular taxonomy of the Australian swamp orchids (*Phaius* spp.). Proceedings of the International Society on Horticulture in the Asian-Pacific Region. 694:121-124.

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Jones DL (2006) *A complete guide to native orchids of Australia including island territories*. (Reed New Holland Publishers: Sydney).

NSW Scientific Committee (1998) *Phaius australis*. Final Determination to list an endangered species under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. NSW Scientific Committee, Sydney.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/determinations/PhaiusAustralisEndSpListing.htm>

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (1999-2014) PlantNET – The Plant Information Network System of The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Sydney, Australia (version 2.0).

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Phaius~australis>

(Accessed 28 Nov 2014)