Bega wattle

Acacia georgensis

Vulnerable

Target: monitor known populations to detect any changes in the species' status and identify new and potential threats

Targeted surveys conducted as part of the *Saving our Species* (SoS) program have improved our knowledge of the distribution of the Bega wattle (*Acacia georgensis*), with permanent plots established at a subset of sites for ongoing monitoring and threat assessment. Until SoS, the extent and recorded locations for this species had not been checked since establishing a recovery plan in 2002.

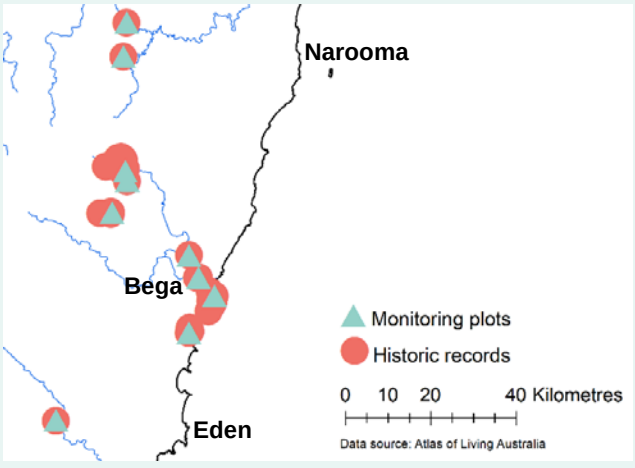
This species is endemic to the NSW Far South Coast, occurring between the coastal escarpment and the coastline west of Narooma down to the Towamba River. This project surveyed 15 of the previously known 29 sites and established nine permanent monitoring plots and one photo-point plot across the species' range. From this, a new population was also discovered at one of these sites in June 2019.

No immediate threats were found, but fires in 2017–18 and 2020 burnt many known sites. This species is killed by fire and the impact of frequent fires is unknown. Surveys of the fire-affected areas will be required to determine how long it takes these populations to recover. These sites will be resurveyed in 2023–24 to monitor populations and enable action, if required, to ensure long term survival. This project is led by the SoS program in partnership with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service who has assisted with field surveys, and private landholders who have allowed access to sites on their properties.

Trajectory: stable

Extant populations of Bega wattle were found at 14 of the 15 sites that were surveyed. While there appears to be a reduction in plant numbers at some sites, this plant is relatively secure in the wild.

It should be noted there are still some unsurveyed sites that may be supporting additional populations.



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