

## To take or not to take, that is the question!

... Rani Hunt (Natural Environment Programs Officer DELWP)

I'd like to update you on some recent changes that may affect the projects you work on.



Common Correa

Many native plants are protected by law and you may need a special permit to collect them. The legislation that protects native plants on Crown Land is called the *Flora Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG). Crown Land isn't just our obvious parks and reserves, but also includes roadsides and any land managed by a public authority. You require a permit to take any part of the native species that are listed as Protected Flora.

The protected flora list includes plants from three sources:

1. Plant taxa (species, subspecies or varieties) [listed as threatened](#) under the FFG Act
2. Plant taxa belonging to communities listed as threatened under the FFG Act
3. Plant taxa listed on the restricted use protected flora list—these plants generally are attractive or highly sought after, such as orchids and grass-trees. They are protected so that the removal of these species from the wild can be controlled.

Example: All correas, all grevilleas and all orchids are Protected Flora.



Angelsea Grevillea

### What is the FFG Act 1988?

The FFG Act is Victoria's main legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities, and for the management of potentially threatening processes. The aim of the Act is to conserve all of Victoria's native plants and animals. The FFG Act places importance on prevention to ensure that more species do not become threatened in the future.



Donkey Orchid

### The Act has been recently amended

The Act changed on 1 June 2020, and while some details are still being worked through, this will mean strengthening of our laws around compliance. The Act had not been significantly amended since 1988 and approaches to conserving biodiversity have changed over the years. The amended Act:

- reclassifies the state advisory list for our threatened species to a national approach
- introduces principles to guide the implementation of the FFG Act, including consideration of the rights and interests of Traditional Owners and the impacts of climate change
- introduces changes to the categories of protected flora, the way they are regulated, and the penalties associated with their protection
- emphasises the importance of cooperative approaches to biodiversity conservation and recognises that all government agencies and the community need to participate in the conservation effort.

### What if you see other people removing native plants when you think they shouldn't be?

You are often the eyes and ears on the ground, so if you see things happening on Crown Land, please report it to DELWP. This information helps build a picture about what is happening on our public reserves. Report environment, wildlife and forestry crime through Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000, or email us [customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au).

**If you are ever in doubt about what you can or can't do when undertaking projects on Crown Land, please contact us at DELWP or visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/victorias-framework-for-conserving-threatened-species>**