

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

(Issued under the Authority of the Minister for the Environment and Water)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

List of Threatened Species Amendment (400) Instrument 2024

Background

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (**Act**) provides for the protection of the environment and conservation of biodiversity, including the protection and conservation of threatened species.

Subsection 178(1) of the Act provides that the Minister must, by legislative instrument, establish a list of threatened species separated into the following categories: Extinct, Extinct in the wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Conservation Dependent. This list referred to in subsection 178(1) of the Act is contained in the *Declaration under s178, s181, and s183 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 - List of threatened species, List of threatened ecological communities and List of threatening processes* (**List**).

Paragraph 184(c) of the Act relevantly provides that the Minister may, by legislative instrument, amend the List referred to in section 178 by transferring items from one category in the list to another category in the list in accordance with Subdivision AA.

The species being transferred in the List met the criteria for listing in the Critically Endangered category under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (**Regulations**).

Purpose of Instrument

The purpose of this Instrument is to amend the List by:

- Transferring the following species by deleting the species from the Extinct category in the List and including it in the Critically Endangered category in the List:
 - *Acacia prismifolia*

Acacia prismifolia is considered threatened due to climate change, habitat and vegetation clearing associated with roadside maintenance, herbicide use associated with road side maintenance, and weed infestation.

Section 192 of the Act provides for the transfer of a species from the Extinct category to another category, if the Minister is satisfied that the native species has been definitely located in nature since it was last listed as Extinct. The Minister may do this with or without the advice of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

Subsection 186(1) of the Act provides that the Minister must not include (whether as a result of a transfer or otherwise) a native species on the List in a particular category unless satisfied that the native species is eligible to be included in that category.

Subsection 186(2B) of the Act provides that in deciding whether to delete a native species from a particular category (whether as a result of a transfer or otherwise), the only matters the Minister may consider are matters relating to whether the native species is eligible to be included in that category or the effect that the inclusion of the native species in that category is having, or could have, on the survival of the species.

Subsection 179(3) of the Act provides that a native species is eligible to be included in the Critically Endangered category at a particular time if, at that time, it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

Regulation 7.01 of the Regulations provides that for section 179 of the Act, a native species is in the Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable category if it meets any of the five criteria for the category mentioned in the table to that provision.

The Minister was satisfied that the requisite criteria was met for including *Acacia prismifolia* in the Critically Endangered category in the List.

Consultation

Given the extensive consultation undertaken on the proposed listing contained in the legislative instrument, it was not necessary to consult on the text of the instrument itself.

Details/ Operation

Details of the Instrument are set out in [Attachment A](#).

This Instrument is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003* and commences the day after registration.

The Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared under section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*. A statement of compatibility is set out in [Attachment B](#).

Authority: section 184 the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Details of the *List of Threatened Species Amendment (400) Instrument 2024*

Section 1 – Name

This section provides that the name of this instrument is the *List of Threatened Species Amendment (400) Instrument 2024*.

Section 2 – Commencement

This section provides that this instrument commences on the day after it is registered.

Section 3 – Authority

This section provides that this instrument is made under section 184 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Section 4 – Schedules

This section specifies that the *Declaration under s178, s181, and s183 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 - List of threatened species, List of threatened ecological communities and List of threatening processes* (principal instrument) is amended as outlined in Schedule 1 of the instrument.

Schedule 1- Amendments

Declaration under s178, s181, and s183 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999- List of threatened species, List of threatened ecological communities and List of threatening processes.

Item 1 – SPECIES THAT ARE EXTINCT

Item 1 amends the list under the heading “SPECIES THAT ARE EXTINCT” to omit in the appropriate position the following species:

- (a) *Acacia prismifolia*

Item 2 – SPECIES THAT ARE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Item 2 amends the list under the heading “SPECIES THAT ARE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED” to include in the appropriate position the following species:

- (a) *Acacia prismifolia*

Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights

*Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the
Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*

List of Threatened Species Amendment (400) Instrument 2024

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

Overview of the Legislative Instrument

The purpose of this Instrument is to amend the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* list of threatened species to:

- Transfer *Acacia prismifolia* from the Extinct to the Critically Endangered category.

The species being transferred in the List met the criteria for listing in the relevant category under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*.

Human rights implications

This Legislative Instrument does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms.

Conclusion

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.

**The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for the Environment and Water**