

A Botanic Garden's strategy for *ex situ* conservation in a global biodiversity hotspot

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Western Australia is renowned for its rich and diverse flora, with a high level of endemism amongst the more than 16,000 taxa of plants and fungi found in the state, and the south-west of Australia recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot. Western Australia's unique flora faces ever evolving and increasing environmental threats, ranging from climate change, to biosecurity, to urbanisation. With more than 430 threatened plant species and more than 100 threatened ecological communities in Western Australia, there is a pressing need to increase conservation capacity and actions. *Ex situ* conservation is a core function of botanic gardens and is central to our purpose to practice and inspire environmental conservation. The Western Australian Botanic Garden, Kings Park (Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority) sits within the southwest biodiversity hotspot and a threatened ecological community and is uniquely placed to contribute to the *ex situ* conservation of Australia's flora given our 60+ year history. Our collections support the continual development of our Botanic Garden, the management and restoration of our native bushland, plant breeding, scientific research, and education programs. We have recently developed an *ex situ* conservation strategy, to reflect on our collection achievements to date and guide the development, management, and use of our *ex situ* collections going forward. It provides a framework to identify new opportunities to: 1) increase synergies between our conservation, science, and education programs, 2) raise the profile of the role of botanic gardens in *ex situ* conservation and to 3) engage in external partnerships to support and build our *ex situ* conservation capacity. Our vision is to preserve nature for our future by taking a leading role in *ex situ* conservation, both within our parks, across the state and around the world. In sharing our strategy, we aim to engage, connect with, and inspire other botanic gardens globally.