

A photograph of a family walking in a park, overlaid with a large green circle containing the word "Huntlee" in white cursive script. The family consists of a woman, a man, and a young girl. The background is a blurred park setting with trees and a path.

Huntlee

# Conservation of *Persoonia* in Huntlee

Presented by Renee Attard (Huntlee Conservation Officer)

# Background of Huntlee

- From the outset Huntlee has had the main objective to ensure the integration of the town within the existing environment and to reduce the impact of the new town on the surrounding ecological communities.
- Ecological Assessments were undertaken for the Huntlee site during the early stages of the Project (2010) to assist in the development of the integrated project layout which included:
  - Quadrat Surveys; and
  - Vegetation Mapping.
- During this assessment individuals of the critically endangered *Persoonia pauciflora* were located. The design of Huntlee considered these existing *Persoonia pauciflora* individuals (23) and avoided these areas (including appropriate buffers).



# North Rothbury *Persoonia*

## (*Persoonia pauciflora*)

- It is believed that there are currently 300 individuals of the *Persoonia pauciflora* remaining in the area, majority can be found within private landholdings or along road verges. 23 individuals can be found on Huntlee conservation lands.

The logo for Huntlee, featuring the word "Huntlee" in a white, cursive script font, centered within a solid green circle. The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a person's hands and arms, possibly engaged in a conservation activity, with a blue tint.

# Huntlee Offset Package

- Once the potential impacts of Huntlee were able to be quantified appropriate mitigation methods were considered, including the development of an offset package.
- The offset package includes the following:
  - Approximately 6000ha of lands within the Hunter Valley transferred into National Park;
  - 607ha of lands retained within the project boundary as Conservation Areas; and
  - Funding provided to Government agencies to assist in preservation programmes for the *Persoonia pauciflora* and the ongoing management of the Conservation Areas.
- The onsite conservation areas included the creation of Persoonia Park which is dedicated to the protection of the existing *Persoonia pauciflora*.
- These mitigation measures were considered appropriate and the Huntlee project received both Federal and State Approvals (**EPBC 2011/5898** and **MP10\_0137**).



# Huntlee Conservation Officer

- As required by Condition 17 of **EPBC 2011/5898** Huntlee has appointed an onsite Conservation Officer.
- The responsibilities of Huntlee's Conservation Officer include;
  - To promote community awareness of the *Persoonia pauciflora* and the importance of preservation of the species;
  - Implementation of the actions outlined in the Management Plans which includes actions applicable to both the individuals and the vegetation community to promote the possible introduction of new individuals; and
  - Liaison with various Government Departments to ensure that the measures undertaken by Huntlee compliment those directed by these departments.

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# Government Approved Management Plans

- Huntlee Conservation Management Plan and the *Persoonia pauciflora* Population Management Plan were prepared consistent with Condition 11 and 15 of **EPBC 2011/5898**.
- The Management Plans provide measurable actions that are required to be undertaken by Huntlee, which ensure the improvement of vegetation communities within the Conservation Lands.
- Key threats to the *Persoonia pauciflora* which have been considered during the preparations of the Management Plans include:
  - Unauthorized picking and/or removal;
  - Grazing;
  - Weeds and pest species; and
  - Pathogens.



# Protective Measures

- Preventative measures that have been included within the management plans which mitigate the risk to the *Persoonia pauciflora* include:
  - Stock exclusion;
  - Installation or upgrade of fence lines and the around the conservation areas;
  - Weeding program and the regular monitoring of the conservation areas;
  - Hygiene protocols to reduce the risk of pathogens spreading throughout the conservation areas;
  - Regular monitoring and reporting on the health and progression of the vegetation communities within the conservation areas.

# Future Directions for the Persoonia

- Funding to the OEH in the implementation of the National Recovery Plan for the North Rothbury Persoonia;
- Propagation trial in liaison with OEH and Royal Botanic Gardens to be undertaken in Persoonia Park;
- In situ augmentation trial – determining the environmental indicators for the Persoonia to shoot in the natural landscape e.g. after bushfires.



Huntlee