

INGLESIDE COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

MINUTES

Meeting held at the Newport Community Centre,
11-13 The Boulevard Newport on

8 December 2015

Commencing at 4.00pm.

M J Ferguson
General Manager



Voting Members of the Committee, namely

Cr Julie Hegarty, Chairperson
Mr Glen Ilic, Wilga Wilson Residents Association
Mr David Seymour, Katandra Bushland Sanctuary
Mr David Palmer, Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Mr Dick Clarke, Elanora Heights Residents Association
Mr Stephen Choularton, Bayview & Ingleside Residents Association
Ms Linda Haefeli, Climate Action Pittwater
Ms Lynne Czinner, Warriewood Valley Residents Association
Ms Roberta Conroy, Bayview – Church Point Residents Association
Ms Jacqui Marlow, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Mr Stephen Smith, Wirreanda Valley Residents Association
Mr Ian Longbottom, Galstaun College
Ms Anne Jeffrey, Bayview Heights Estate Owners Group
Ms Tess Wiseman, Garigal Deep Creek Residents Association

The following Technical Advisors (non-voting):

Mr Paul Robilliard, NSW DP&E
Mr Bruce Coleman, NSW DP&E
Ms Liz Gonzalez, NSW DP&E
Mr Aaron Nangle, NSW DP&E
Mr Stuart McCowan, UrbanGrowth NSW
Mr Steven Ward, EcoLogical Australia

The following Council Advisors (non-voting)

Mr Mark Ferguson, General Manager
Ms Melinda Hewitt, Director Environmental Planning & Community
Mr Ben Taylor, Director Urban & Environmental Assets
Mr Andrew Pigott, Manager Planning & Assessment
Mr Mark Beharrell, Manager Natural Environment & Education
Ms Liza Cordoba, Principal Officer Land Release
Mr Gordon Edgar, Executive Planner Land Release
Ms Anja Ralph, Senior Strategic Planner Land Release
Mr Robbie Platt, Strategic Planner Land Release
Ms David Bremner, Acting Manager Community Engagement & Corporate Strategy
Ms Pamela Tasker, Minute Secretary / Administration Officer

Observers:

Mr Graeme Jessup, Sustainability Pittwater
Mr Tony Edye, Climate Action Pittwater
Ms Joanne Tulau, Curtin University
Mr Ivor Dacic, Wilga Wilson / Sunland Group
Mr Ben De Montemas, Mirvac
Ms Penny Grey
Mr Harry Groves
Mr Phil Walker

Ingleside Community Reference Group Meeting

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1.0 Apologies

1. The following apologies were received and leave of absence from the Ingleside Community Reference Group Meeting was granted:
 - Mr Chris Hornsby, Warriewood Residents Association
 - Mr Conrad Grayson, Pittwater Resident Representative
2. Ms Lynne Czinner attended as alternative delegate on behalf of the Warriewood Residents Association.
3. Ms Tess Wiseman attended the meeting as delegate on behalf of the Garigal Deep Creek Residents Association. Ms Wiseman has replaced Mr John Simmonds (Sydney Conference Training Centre) on the Committee. The Chair welcomed Ms Wiseman to the meeting.
4. The Chair also extended a welcome to the two new Pittwater Council Directors, Ms Melinda Hewitt (Environmental Planning & Community) and Mr Ben Taylor (Urban & Environmental Assets).
5. Mr Paul Robilliard advised that he has resigned from the Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E). Mr Robilliard introduced Mr Bruce Coleman who has been appointed as the DP&E's Project Director for the Ingleside Precinct Planning process.

2.0 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest/Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

Nil.

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ingleside Community Reference Group Meeting held on 1 July 2015, copies of which were distributed to all Reference Group Members, be and are hereby accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

(Mr Ian Longbottom / Mr Stephen Choularton)

4.0 Issues Arising From Last Meeting

4.1 Biocertification Meeting with Ms Jacqui Marlow, EcoLogical Australia, Department of Planning & Environment and Pittwater Council

At the Ingleside Community Reference Group Meeting held on 1 July 2015 the Chair requested a further meeting be arranged between Ms Jacqui Marlow, Dr Steven Ward (EcoLogical Australia), the DP&E and Mr Mark Beharrell (Manager – Natural Environment and Education) to discuss the biocertification process in Ingleside.

The meeting was held on 19 August 2015 and a copy of the minutes of that meeting were provided to members at Appendix 2 on the Agenda.

4.2 Acknowledgement Letter to John Simmonds

A letter was sent to Mr John Simmonds (Sydney Conference Training Centre) to thank him for his contributions to the ICRG. A copy of that letter was provided to members at Appendix 3 on the Agenda.

5.0 Discussion Topics

5.1 Program Update

Mr Paul Robilliard of the DP&E addressed the meeting on this item. The PowerPoint presentation is at **Appendix 1** to the Minutes.

Mr Robilliard advised that the DP&E's intention is to consult on the work done to date following the outcomes of the Angus Onion Orchid surveys and genetic testing. These results have impacted on their initial timeframes and have necessitated further liaison with the Office of Environmental Heritage (OEH).

It is anticipated that a non-statutory public exhibition will be held in early 2016 which will include the presentation of a draft Indicative Layout Plan (ILP) to the community for comments. The ILP is currently being amended to reflect the results of the Angus Onion Orchid survey and initial advice from OEH. A formal statutory public exhibition is anticipated to follow in mid-2016 which will include draft development controls and the Biocertification Strategy. Following the statutory public exhibition, rezoning of land is anticipated to occur towards the end of 2016.

Members were advised that the following draft reports were publicly released on the project website on 4 August 2015:

- Traffic and Transport Assessment - prepared by AECOM
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan - prepared by Cardno
- On-Site Effluent Assessment for Subdivision - prepared by SMEC

This was followed by the release of an additional three Ingleside draft technical reports on 14 October 2015:

- Employment and Retail Assessment – prepared by SGS Economics and Planning
- Draft Preliminary Land Capability, Salinity and Contamination Assessment – prepared by SMEC
- Noise and Vibration Assessment - prepared by AECOM

Q: Will the Species Impact Statement by Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) be incorporated into the Biocertification Strategy?

A: We are working with RMS and are sharing all of our information. In regard to biocertification, the impacts of the Mona Vale Road upgrade will be considered and addressed by the RMS as part of their project.

A program update has been included in the E-newsletter which will be distributed soon and made available on the website <http://www.inglesideplanning.com.au/>.

5.2 Update on Ecological Issues

Dr Steven Ward of EcoLogical Australia addressed the meeting on this item, providing an update on the field surveys and genetic testing of the Angus Onion Orchid. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is at **Appendix 2** to the Minutes.

Dr Ward advised that there was a discrepancy in the findings of the field survey and genetic testing. Few *Microtis angusii* (endangered) plants were identified in the field survey however genetic testing positively identified thousands of plants. *Microtis unifolia*, a similar but more common species of orchid, appears to have genetically tested as *Microtis angusii*.

There are two possible explanations for this discrepancy:

- 1) *Microtis angusii* and *Microtis unifolia* are the same species;
- 2) Genetic testings is not detecting the differences between the species.

To resolve this issue we are in ongoing discussions with OEH and are collecting samples of *Microtis unifolia* from other locations (Armidale, Tasmania, Blue Mountains) for genetic testing to determine if they are the same species.

If they are confirmed as separate species of orchid, the field surveys have quadrupled the known population of *Microtis angusii* and the known location spread is larger than previously thought.

Microtis unifolia is quite common and widespread. If the orchids are proven to be the same species, the Angus Onion Orchid may be delisted under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

Q: What is the process for delisting a species? How long does it take?

A: A panel of scientists reviews new information and makes a recommendation for delisting based on the evidence presented. The process could take over a year and there is no guarantee that delisting will occur.

Q: Are there restrictions on site disturbance during the review period?

A: Most of the orchids appear in clusters throughout the precinct. We are refining the ILP to accommodate precautionary protection of these orchids and continuing to liaise with OEH to confirm that we can consult on this plan with the community. It is hoped that this process can occur concurrent to any delisting investigations.

- Q:** Is there a policy in regard to an acceptable level of loss to a threatened species?
- A:** No. Under the biocertification process there are thresholds which alert us to when further detailed consideration is necessary. These threshold are called 'red flags'. The thresholds vary from species to species.
- Q:** What is considered the acceptable level of loss to other threatened species such as fauna?
- A:** It depends on the species. Some fauna species don't have a threshold, others do. There are three species that will require further consideration in the Ingleside precinct. This information will be presented as part of the Biocertification Package during the statutory public exhibition.
- Q:** What level of protection is currently offered to the orchid on private property?
- A:** The land is not yet biocertified so it is currently offered the same levels of protection and assessment for any development. The Angus Onion Orchid prefers disturbed habitat so site disturbance may not have caused the same level of concern as for other species.
- Q:** Was the orchid found on private land?
- A:** Yes, where the land has been disturbed as well as within the road edges.
- Q:** Can the orchid be propagated?
- A:** OEH are investigating this in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens but it is a difficult process.

5.3 Dissemination of Information

Mr David Bremner (Acting Manager - Community Engagement & Corporate Strategy) addressed the meeting concerning the Reference Group members' role in communicating information to their various associations. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is at **Appendix 3** to the Minutes.

Mr Bremner circulated the Ingleside Community Reference Group Terms of Reference to members and discussed the role of members as representatives of their communities and community associations.

Responsibilities of members:

- Members attend meetings as representatives of their community / community association. Views expressed at meetings should be unbiased and communicate community concerns and aspirations.
- Meetings are an opportunity for the Ingleside Precinct Working Group and the Project Control Group to be informed on community attitudes, aspirations, innovations and local knowledge.
- Meetings are an opportunity for community representatives to be informed on a range of issues throughout the various stages of the Precinct Planning process.
- It is important for members to communicate outwards to their community organisations and networks. Methods of communication were identified as follows:
 - Face to face
 - Public Meetings
 - Phone; Email; Facebook
 - Newsletters
 - Resident Association Meetings

6.0 General Business

6.1 Fit for the Future (Council Amalgamations)

Q: Will forced Council Amalgamations affect this process?

A: The General Manager advised that any future Council amalgamations would not impact on the Ingleside Precinct Planning process.

7.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting date of the Ingleside Community Reference Group is anticipated to be held in early 2016.

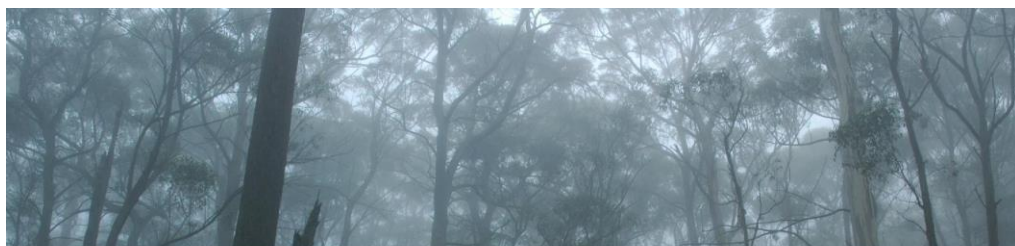
**There being no further business
The Ingleside Community Reference Group Meeting
closed at 4.55pm on Tuesday 8 December 2015**

Key activities since last ICRG meeting

| KEY STEPS | ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Prepare and refine the Structure Plan, draft zoning and development controls based on technical evidence and feedback from our draft Structure Plan workshops. | Late 2014 to early 2016 |
| Release of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Traffic & Transport Report (AECOM) Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Cardno) Draft On-site Effluent Management Capability Report (SMEC) | July 2015 |
| Release of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Retail and Employment Study (SGS Economics) Preliminary Land Capability, Salinity and Contamination Assessment (SMEC) Draft Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (AECOM) | October 2015 |

Revised program and way forward

| KEY STEPS | ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Field survey for Angus' Onion Orchid and genetic testing. | September – November 2015 |
| Ingleside Community Reference Group meeting - report on findings of Orchid field surveys and genetic testing and program update. | 8 December 2015 |
| Program update via e-news and Ingleside website – landowners & broader community. | December 2015 |
| Consultation on draft Plans and draft technical studies. | Early 2016 |
| Review of submissions | Following consultation |
| Public exhibition of draft Precinct Plan – draft planning controls including Section 94 Plan, statutory controls and Biodiversity Certification package. | Mid 2016 |
| Review of submissions. | Following public exhibition |
| Rezoning of Ingleside. | Late 2016 |
| Post rezoning information sessions | Following Gazettal |



Ingleside –Angus's Onion Orchid (*Microtis angusii*) – Survey Results

Dr Steven Ward

eco
logical
AUSTRALIA



Background

- Cryptic (hard to detect) plant
- Listed as Endangered





Background



- Need to survey when flowering (Sep - Oct)
- Genetic testing to confirm identification
- Often occurs in roadside edge habitat
- Roads and Maritime results used to generate a habitat model

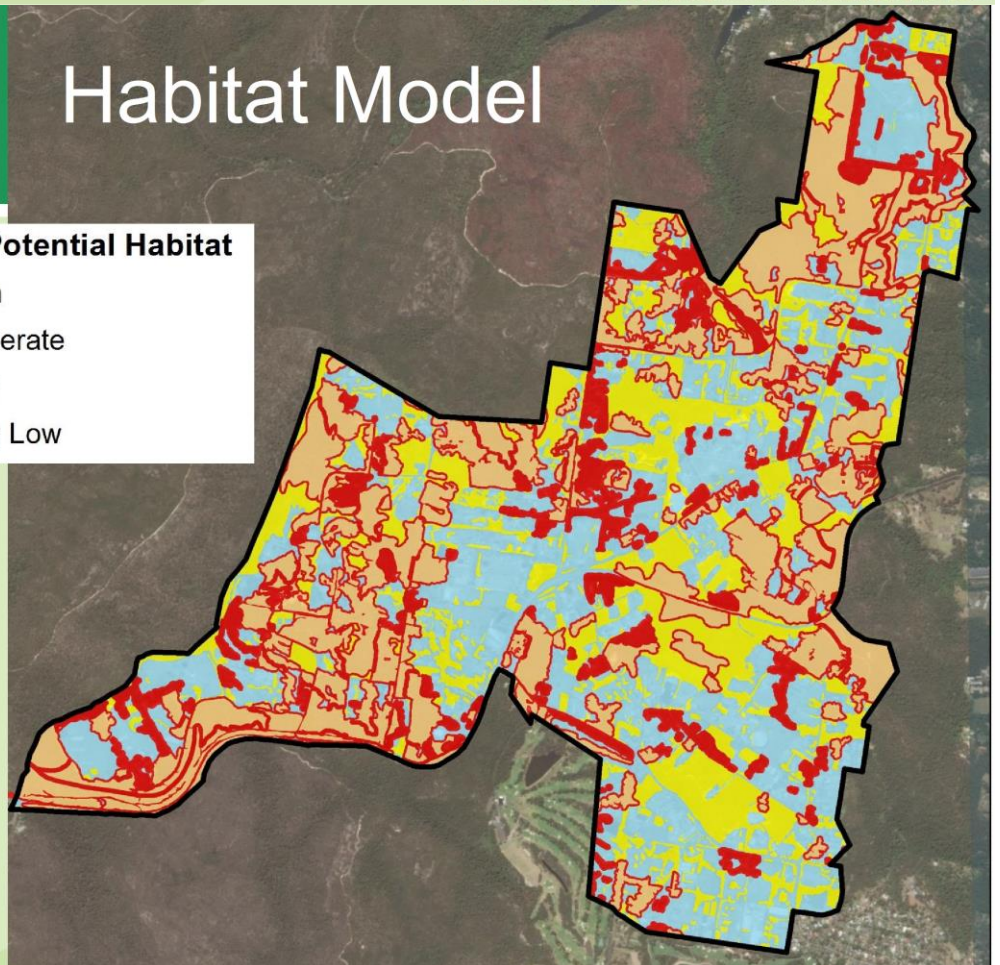


Habitat Model



Orchid Potential Habitat

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

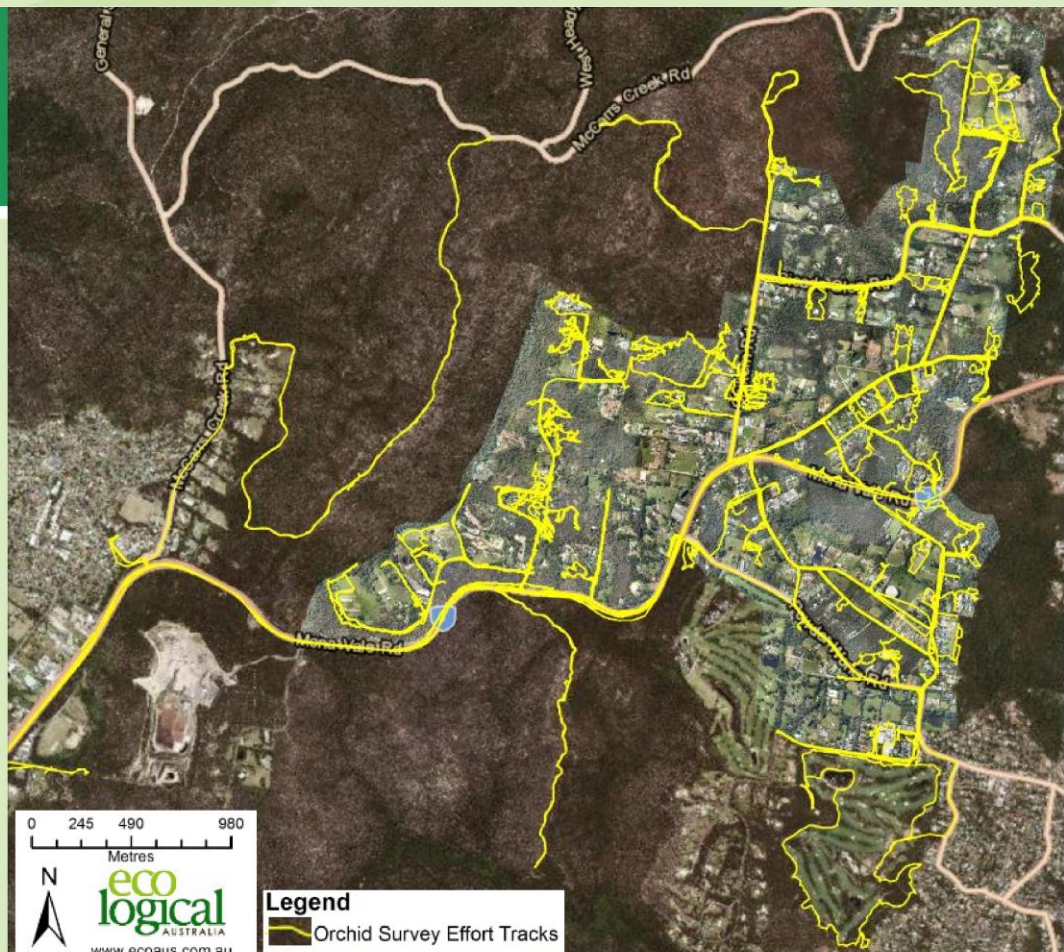




Methods



- Known population checked every 2 weeks
- Survey done over two weeks (Sep - Oct)
- Two teams of 2 ecologists = 40 person days
- Habitat of modelled higher potential targeted
- GPS points taken when located
- Number of plants counted
- Small piece(s) of leaf sample taken and sent off for genetic analysis
- Also surveyed adjoining National Parks (map on next slide)

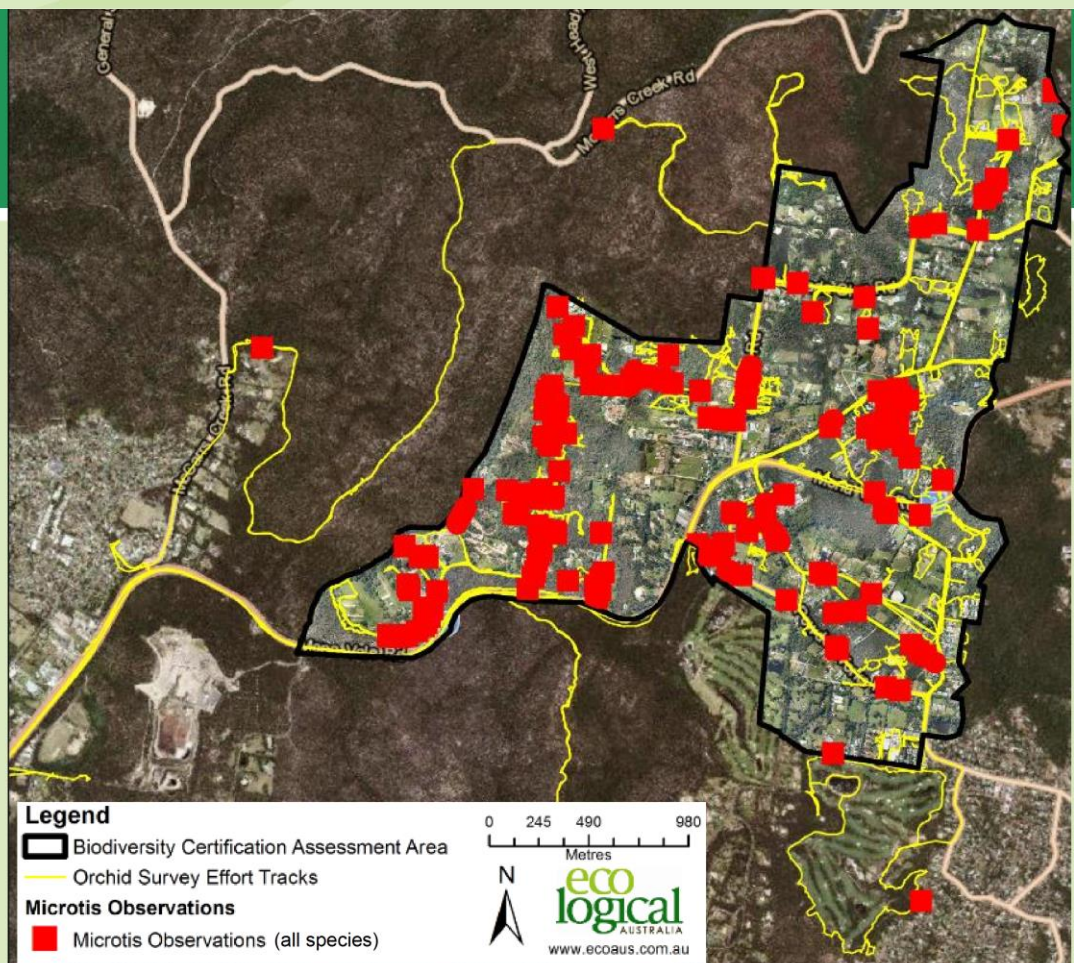




Results - Field



- Field identifications of four (4) *Microtis* species:
 - *Microtis angusii* - low numbers (Endangered)
 - *Microtis unifolia* – high numbers
 - *Microtis parviflora* – high numbers
 - *Microtis rara* – low numbers
- Some large populations of *Microtis*, generally in the road corridors – map on next slide.





Results – Genetic Testing



| Species | <i>Microtis</i> populations estimated from field survey | Samples confirmed from genetic analysis | Population count based on genetic results |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>Microtis angusii</i> | 139 | 101 | 4276 |
| <i>Microtis unifolia</i> | 4107 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Microtis parviflora</i> | 1976 ¹ | 113 | 3659 ¹ |
| <i>Microtis rara</i> | 52 | 2 | 573 |
| <i>Microtis</i> spp. | 2240 | N/A | N/A |
| <i>Microtis affiliate angusii</i> | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Total | 8514¹ | 217 | 8514¹ |

1 = Estimate for two large populations of *Microtis parviflora*

- The key genetic results were :
 - Zero *Microtis unifolia* (field = high no's)
 - Many *Microtis angusii* (field = low no's)



Why the Difference?



- Two possibilities :
 1. *Microtis angusii* and *Microtis unifolia* are actually the same species.
 - *Microtis angusii* – “tall and robust”
 - *Microtis unifolia* – smaller, but size can overlap with *Microtis angusii*.
 2. Genetic testing is not detecting differences between the species.



Which is correct?



- Currently unknown which is correct
- However, to resolve this we are:
 - Discussing the results with Office of Environment and Heritage
 - Obtaining *Microtis unifolia* samples from elsewhere in NSW for genetic analysis. If these also come back as *Microtis angusii* suggests that they are the same species.



Implications



- Based on genetic results
 - Known population more than quadrupled (~1,300 to ~5,500)
 - Known distribution area has increased
- Genetic tests for other locations:
 - If other sites = *Microtis angusii*, this supports that the two are same species
 - *Microtis unifolia* is widespread and common
 - Species might be “delisted”

INGLESIDE COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Responsibilities of members

- Review relevant documents and provide feedback
- Attend meetings and workshops
- Participate in group deliberations
- Communicate with your networks and seek feedback
- Engage with members of the broader community
- Represent the views of all residents in an unbiased way
- Abide by the Council's Values and Code of Conduct etc

INGLESIDE COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Engaging with your groups/ other community members

- Face-to-face discussions
- Group meetings
- Phone calls
- Email lists
- Facebook (messages, groups etc)
- Are there other channels?