

# Melaleuca formosa (S. T. Blake) Craven

Kingaroy Bottlebrush, Cliff Bottlebrush

**Scientific Name:** *Melaleuca formosa*  
(S. T. Blake) Craven

**Common Name:** Kingaroy Bottlebrush, Cliff Bottlebrush

**Status:**  
Listed as **Near Threatened**  
Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2009.

**Identification:**  
*Melaleuca formosa* is a small upright tree to 8 metres, occasionally slightly pendulous with lightly furrowed, hard brown- grey bark.

**Leaves:** Simple, alternate, with a short abrupt tip, base slightly twisted, to 8 cm by 1 cm wide, narrow- elliptic, mid green. Large, transparent oil dots readily visible to the naked eye.

**Flowers:** Cream or lemon yellow brushes in terminal spikes to 8 cm x 3.5 cm, each spike comprised of numerous tiny flowers borne mainly during spring.

**Fruits:** Grey, woody globular capsules to 5 mm x 3 mm, with an orifice to 2.5 mm, capsules inserted within an expanded hypanthium, 3 valves opening below the rim; sessile and clustered along the stems.

**Seeds:** Dry, linear, flattened, straw brown coloured, thickened one end and tapered, like a beast's horn, numerous per capsule.

**Seed Dispersal/ Reproduction:** Reproduces readily from seed, may be propagated from cuttings.

**Habitat:**  
Found in or around vineforest, occasionally in open forest, woodland and shrubby woodland often with a heathy understorey at 350-600 m altitude on shallow to deep sandy, loamy or gravelly soils.

**Distribution:**  
Occurs in a variety of landscapes ranging from lateritic duricrusts in hilly country, to low lying gullies and seeps or boggy areas over an area of approximately 400 km, from West Haldon in the Lockyer Valley to Kroombit Tops southwest of Gladstone.



Whole Plant



Small bunches of capsules



Flowers



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## Threats:

Fires occurring at the wrong time of year at too great an intensity and too frequently lead to interruptions to the reproductive cycle, loss of plants and loss of seed banks.

The introduced grass, *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass) is a major threat to the species. Its large biomass causes large fuel loads to accumulate which leads to more intense, damaging fires.

While the successful germination and survival of seedlings often occurs on fire-prepared seed beds, the wrong type of fires are known to kill up to 90% of seedlings and young saplings.

Disturbance of the habitat through development, clearing and roadside maintenance is also a threat to this species.

The dumping of rubbish, leading to degradation of habitat, the hindering of revegetation, and the establishment of weeds in the habitat is a major threat.

The drift of agricultural chemicals, collection of firewood, and the inappropriate collection of plant material all pose additional threats to the continued survival of the plant.

Due to the small, fragmented populations of this species, a loss of genetic variation may also pose a threat to its resilience or capacity to overcome adverse impacts of any nature.

## Council Requirements:

The South Burnett Regional Council is responsible for the management and protection of remnant vegetation that occurs on council controlled reserves and local road reserves in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2009.

An application must be made to council to clear or burn any of the council controlled reserves or roadside reserves in the South Burnett Region so that the impact on this species and other threatened species may be assessed and managed or minimised.



*New foliage redbrown with translucent pungent point*



*Habitat with emergent eucalypts*

For further information contact:

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For Application and Referral Forms Visit:

[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au) or [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

This publication is an initiative of South Burnett Regional Council's Natural Resources Management department and was compiled with information and photographs provided by Caroline Taskard, Vegetation Matters. This information is provided as a guide only and South Burnett Regional Council accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy of the information presented.

