

## **Botanic Gardens of Sydney Living Collections Strategy 2023+**

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Living collections are the fundamental basis for why we as institutions continue to exist. With the exception of connection to the country for First Nations cultures, all other activities that occur in botanic gardens and seed banks rely on the living collections. Science, education, events and amenity use all depend on a living collection that provides enchanting spaces and inspires visitors to engage and support the conservation of the world's flora and natural areas. At Botanic Gardens of Sydney, our three distinctly different botanic gardens and world class seed bank hold 11,800 species from across Australia and around the world. As custodians of this large and growing collection, we carry a responsibility to ensure their sourcing, curation and use are aligned with world's best practice, are considered within the context of cultural significance, and are made available to support the advancement of botanical and ecological knowledge, the conservation of genetic diversity, and the continuation of culture for First Nations Peoples. Our Living Collections Strategy 2023+ provides a strategic focus for Botanic Gardens of Sydney to implement substantial and lasting changes to the way we operate. The Strategy was adopted across the organisation as a critical document, underpinning all operations that support the living collections. We believe that without the plants we seek to protect, we have no imprimatur. For this reason, Botanic Gardens of Sydney is committed to supporting the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation so that we can achieve what we seek to deliver in strengthening cultural connections, uplifting educational outcomes and deepening our scientific understanding of the flora we are lucky enough to have the responsibility to protect.

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