**Phaius australis**
Swamp orchid

*Phaius australis* flowers and leaves

**Nature Conservation Act 1992 & NCA Regulations 2006 status:**
Endangered

**Known locations:**
Noosa, Mary, Maroochy, Stanley and Mooloolah River catchments

**Habitat:**
Found in swampy grassland or Rainforest, Eucalypt or Paperbark open forest/woodland on sandstone.

**Lifeform:**
*Phaius australis* is a large evergreen terrestrial herb to around 2m high; thick fleshy roots; with pseudobulbs to 7cm x 7cm, oval, crowded, bearing four to seven leaves; may form colonies.

**Distinguishing features:**
Differs from *Phaius tankervilleae* in the shape and marking on the flowers. *Phaius australis* has streaks on the sepals and petals.

**Flowers:**
Flower stem to 2m tall (usually about 1.25m), numerous stem bracts bearing four to sixteen flowers to about 10cm across; flowers white outside, red-brown with yellow veins or greenish yellow inside, sometimes not opening and self pollinating. Most flowers set fruit. Like *P. tankervilleae* the flowers are long-lasting and open progressively for several weeks. Flowers early spring or September to November.

**Fruit:**
Large three-celled fruit that splits to release numerous fine seeds.

**Foliage:**
Large leaves 1.25m x 1cm, lanceolate, dark green, thin-textured, pleated and spreading in a tussock.

**Bark:**
Herbaceous tufted plant

For further information please contact council

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