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Endangered species found at Chowder Bay

A flora and fauna study undertaken for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has revealed pockets of an endangered Sunshine Wattle at Middle Head.

The Sunshine Wattle species *Acacia terminalis subsp. terminalis* is only found close to the coast between Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay with another population on North Head.

Executive Director of the Harbour Trust, Geoff Bailey, said Middle Head is one of Sydney Harbour's 'green' headlands and together with North and Dobroyd Head, give the Harbour its bushland character.

"We are very lucky to have pockets of *Acacia terminalis subsp. terminalis*. This is a rare species in Sydney and the Harbour Trust's future plans for the land will certainly work to protect its habitat."

The study included Harbour Trust and National Parks and Wildlife Service lands.

The Harbour Trust's draft plan proposes to create a Headland Park at Middle Head. Under the draft plan, the existing area of bushland would more than double and improvements in drainage and stormwater would help the vitality of the bushland on steep slopes.

To protect the vegetation the Harbour Trust will look at ongoing maintenance, weeding, appropriate fire regimes, and methods of protection from damaging activities like trampling, run off and disease transmissions.

Acacia terminalis subsp. terminalis is a shrub growing up to five metres. It is smooth barked and flowers from February to October.

The *Acacia terminalis subsp. terminalis* is listed as an endangered species in Schedule 1 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995) and under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999).

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PHOTO

Photos of the Sunshine Wattle at Middle Head are available.