

Conservation Action Plan

Banksia conferta

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of s.78C of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (Reg.) in relation to an Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) as declared under s.153G of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Site details

AIS site	AIS-ES-227, AIS-ES-228, AIS-ES-229, AIS-ES-230
Site location	An area of 103 hectares in Coorabakh National Park
NPWS contact	Project Officer - Conservation, Hunter Central Coast Branch

Environmental values

This table sets out the environmental values for which the land was listed as an AIS (Reg. 78C(3)(a)).

Identified value(s)	Value description
Important habitat for <i>Banksia conferta</i>	This species is a critically endangered shrub that grows up to four metres, is irregular in shape, with grey coloured, roughly tessellated bark. The branchlets of this species can be hairy or hairless and vary in colour from orange to red or brown. <i>Banksia conferta</i> is found on exposed rocky slopes in well-drained skeletal soil, occurring in low open forest with a dry sclerophyll understory. This species is high restricted and is found in a small area of Coorabakh National Park.

Key risks to environmental values

This table sets out the key risks to the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(b)).

Key risk(s)	Description
Inappropriate fire regimes	Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity that limits germination and recruitment may lead to a decline or extinction of <i>Banksia conferta</i> population at the sites. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size of the species at the sites.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	Infection by <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> resulting in mortality of individual plants.
Disturbance	Authorised infrastructure maintenance activities (e.g. road and trail maintenance) that leads to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals by slashing and herbicide use.

Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. Control, abate or mitigate the key risks and
2. maintain, restore and remediate the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(c)).

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the <i>Banksia conferta</i> within 12 months of adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas - implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas - integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements. • Implement fire management consistent with the guidance.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement hygiene protocols as outlined in the DPIE Hygiene Guidelines (as published in April 2020) or as varied by any written advice from the Secretary for the purposes of this declared area.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether infrastructure maintenance is having an adverse impact on <i>Banksia conferta</i>. If adverse impacts are observed implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - upgrade and/or realignment of trails to avoid known plants and habitat - installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing or herbicide use near sites. • If required, develop and implement guidance for staff, utility managers, council and/or contractors about appropriate maintenance practices that minimise impacts to <i>Banksia conferta</i> population and habitat.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish ex-situ seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population in partnership with a suitable facility. • If required, augment the existing population or establish a new population with ex-situ material.

Other land management activities

Within the declared land there are existing assets and infrastructure of NPWS and other external service providers, including public utilities.

Maintenance operations (including inspection, emergency works and routine and standard maintenance) that are exempt development in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and which are performed on and around existing assets and infrastructure, are authorised under this conservation action plan (CAP) provided such operations are undertaken in a manner that aims to minimise the risk to the declared environmental values of the land and with any other required consents or approvals.

All maintenance operations on the declared land are to be undertaken in accordance with this CAP.

Measuring and reporting

This table sets out the requirements for measuring and reporting on health and condition (Reg. 78C(3)(d)).

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the <i>Banksia conferta</i> population	Population count	Design and implement every 3 years, monitoring to generate a count of the number of juveniles, mature plants and seedlings in the population.

A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land and its overall trajectory.

Evaluation of conservation action plans

This CAP will be amended or replaced as new information becomes available that helps improve our management of the identified assets (Reg. 78H).

The Secretary must appoint a scientist, or a panel of scientists, to conduct a review, as soon as possible after the period of five years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage Group
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Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment,
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: 1300 361 967; email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; www.environment.nsw.gov.au
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