# Conservation Action Plan

## Northern corroboree frog (*Pseudophryne pengilleyi*)

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

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|---|---|
| AIS site | AIS-ES-149, AIS-ES-150, AIS-ES-151 |
| Site location | An area of 6684 hectares in Kosciuszko National Park |
| NPWS contact | Team Leader - Conservation, Southern Ranges 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 Northern corroboree frog | The Northern corroboree frog has bright yellow, yellowish-green or lime-green longitudinal stripes alternating with black stripes on its back, and has black, yellow and white blotches underneath. This critically endangered frog is found in forests, sub-alpine woodlands and tall heath. During summer the northern corroboree frog breeds in pools and seepages in sphagnum bogs, wet heath, wet tussock grasslands and herb fields in low-lying depressions. |

## 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 | Fire may degrade the habitat of Northern corroboree frog by removing understorey vegetation and groundcover, and through the reduction of moisture levels and water quality. |
| Weeds | Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g., blackberry) to the extent that the area of suitable habitat is reduced. |
| Feral herbivores | Damage to individuals and degradation of Northern corroboree frog habitat, by introduced herbivores, such as horses and deer through trampling, and fouling ponds. |
| Feral pigs | Damage to individuals and degradation of northern corroboree frog habitat, by feral pigs through browsing, trampling, wallowing and rooting may lead to a decline of Northern corroboree frog at the sites. |

| Key risk(s) | Description |
|---|---|
| Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms | Infection by amphibian chytrid fungus causing the disease chytridiomycosis leading to the mortality of individuals.<br>This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at the sites. |
| Anthropogenic climate change | Changes in weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that alters the habitat structure, composition and resource availability may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of the Northern corroboree frog at the sites.<br>This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at the sites. |

# 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 | • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the Northern corroboree frog within 12 months of the adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for:<br>- maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas<br>- implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas<br>- integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements.<br>• Implement fire management consistent with the guidance. |
| Weeds | All sites | • Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on Northern corroboree frog, by targeted application of physical, and/or biological weed control. |
| Feral herbivores | All sites | • To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral deer to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on Northern corroboree frog, and maintain the density at or below that level, by shooting and other approved integrated control measures.<br>• To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral horses to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on Northern corroboree frog, by trapping, mustering and removal, and ground shooting in accordance with a wild horse plan of management approved by the Secretary. |

| Key risk(s) | Impacted site(s) | Conservation activities |
|---|---|---|
| Feral pigs | All sites | • To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral pigs to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on Northern corroboree frog, and maintain the density at or below that level, by trapping, baiting and shooting |
| Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms | All sites | • Implement hygiene protocols as outlined in the DPE Hygiene Guidelines (as published in April 2020) or as varied by any written advice from the Secretary for the purposes of this declared area. |
| All risks | All sites | • If required, supplement the captive bred population for reintroduction or translocation into suitable habitat at the sites.<br>• If required, augment the existing population at the sites and/or establish a new wild population at the sites with animals from the captive bred population. |

## 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 northern corroboree frog population | Population estimate | Implement annual monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of individuals 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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| Date prepared | March 2023 |
| Date approved | June 2023 |
| Approved by | Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage Group |
| Due for review | June 2028 |

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