

Conservation Action Plan

Regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*)

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-276, AIS-ES-277, AIS-ES-278
Site location	An area of 718 hectares in Capertee National Park
NPWS contact	Area Manager, Mudgee Area, Blue Mountains 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 regent honeyeater	The critically endangered regent honeyeater is a distinctive, medium-sized, black and yellow honeyeater with a sturdy, curved bill and a characteristic patch of dark pink or cream-coloured facial-skin around the eye. Its back and lower breast are pale lemon with a black scalloped pattern and its flight and tail feathers are edged with bright yellow. The regent honeyeater inhabits temperate woodlands and open forests but can also be found in drier coastal woodlands. This species mainly feeds on nectar from a relatively small number of eucalypts that produce high volumes of nectar but will also feed on mistletoe found in <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> .

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, intensity and extent that alters habitat composition and structure and leads to a reduction in suitable habitat and food availability may lead to a decline or extinction of the species at the sites. This risk is exacerbated by the fragmented habitat and declining population.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds to the extent that availability of foraging or refuge areas are reduced.

Regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*)
Conservation Action Plan

Key risk(s)	Description
Feral herbivores	Degradation of regent honeyeater habitat by introduced herbivores, such as feral deer, through grazing and trampling may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat.
Feral pigs	Degradation of regent honeyeater habitat by feral pigs through browsing and trampling may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat.
Interactions with native species	<p>Competition from honeyeaters, noisy miners, friarbirds and wattlebirds for nests and food resources may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat and affect the persistence of the regent honeyeater at the sites.</p> <p>Predation by native predators, including currawongs, raptors and reptiles, of eggs, young and adults may affect the persistence of the regent honeyeater at the sites.</p> <p>This risk is exacerbated by the fragmented habitat and declining population.</p>
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that leads to an increase in the severity of drought conditions and fire may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of regent honeyeater at the sites.
Disturbance	Disturbance by recreational users may lead to changes in nesting behaviour and nesting success and affect the persistence of the species 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the regent honeyeater 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.
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on regent honeyeater, by targeted application of physical, biological and/or chemical weed control.

Regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*)
Conservation Action Plan

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Feral herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral deer to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the regent honeyeater, and maintain the density at or below that level, by shooting and other approved integrated control measures.
Feral pigs	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral pigs to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the regent honeyeater, and maintain the density at or below that level, by trapping, baiting and shooting.
Interactions with native species	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess impacts from native species and undertake targeted control as required, in selected locations to reduce competition and predation, using approved control methods.
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, assess direct impact of anthropogenic climate change on the regent honeyeater and its habitat.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether visitor use is having an adverse impact on regent honeyeater. If adverse impacts are observed implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade and realignment of trails to avoid known habitat installation of signs, threatened species marker posts or barriers to delineate sites and minimise impacts from visitor use.

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 Regent honeyeater population	Occupancy rates	Design and implement annual monitoring to determine the number of individuals using the site for foraging or breeding.

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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