

# Conservation Action Plan

## Salt pipewort (*Eriocaulon carsonii*)

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-E0-028
Site location	An area of 342 hectares in Paroo-Darling National Park
NPWS contact	Ranger Paroo-Darling, West Darling Area, West 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 salt pipewort	Salt pipewort is a small, tufted herb with flowering stems 3 - 8 centimetres high. This endangered plant grows in slow running water, forming dense mats in the wet soil of seepages of shallow springs. The species is an endemic of active or flowing artesian mound springs on the margins of the Great Artesian Basin such as those within the declared land.

## 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
Feral herbivores	Damage to individual plants and degradation of salt pipewort habitat by introduced herbivores, including goats, through browsing, trampling. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution of the salt pipewort.
Feral pigs	Damage to individual plants and degradation of salt pipewort habitat by feral pigs, through browsing, trampling, wallowing and rooting. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution of the salt pipewort.
Interactions with native species	Competition from other native sedges and grasses for light, space and resources may impact persistence of the salt pipewort at the site.
Alteration of hydrological regimes	Changes in artesian water flows, and cycles of inundation and drying, that leads to a reduction in suitable habitat may affect the persistence of the salt pipewort at the site.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the frequency and severity of drought conditions may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of salt pipewort at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution of the salt pipewort.

## Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

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

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Feral herbivores and pigs	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the extent practicable, reduce density of feral goats to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the salt pipewort, and maintain the density at or below that level, by shooting and other integrated control measures such as mustering and removal.</li> </ul>
Feral pigs	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral pigs to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the salt pipewort, and maintain the density at or below that level, by trapping, baiting, and shooting.</li> </ul>
Interactions with native species	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where impacts on salt pipewort and its habitat are observed, reduce competition by removal of native sedges and grasses.</li> </ul>
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain ex-situ seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population in partnership with an appropriate seedbank facility.</li> <li>If required, augment the existing population or establish a new population with ex-situ material at the site.</li> </ul>

## 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 Salt pipewort population	Area of occupancy	Design and implement an annual assessment, to calculate the area of occupancy and determine distribution of salt pipewort at the site.

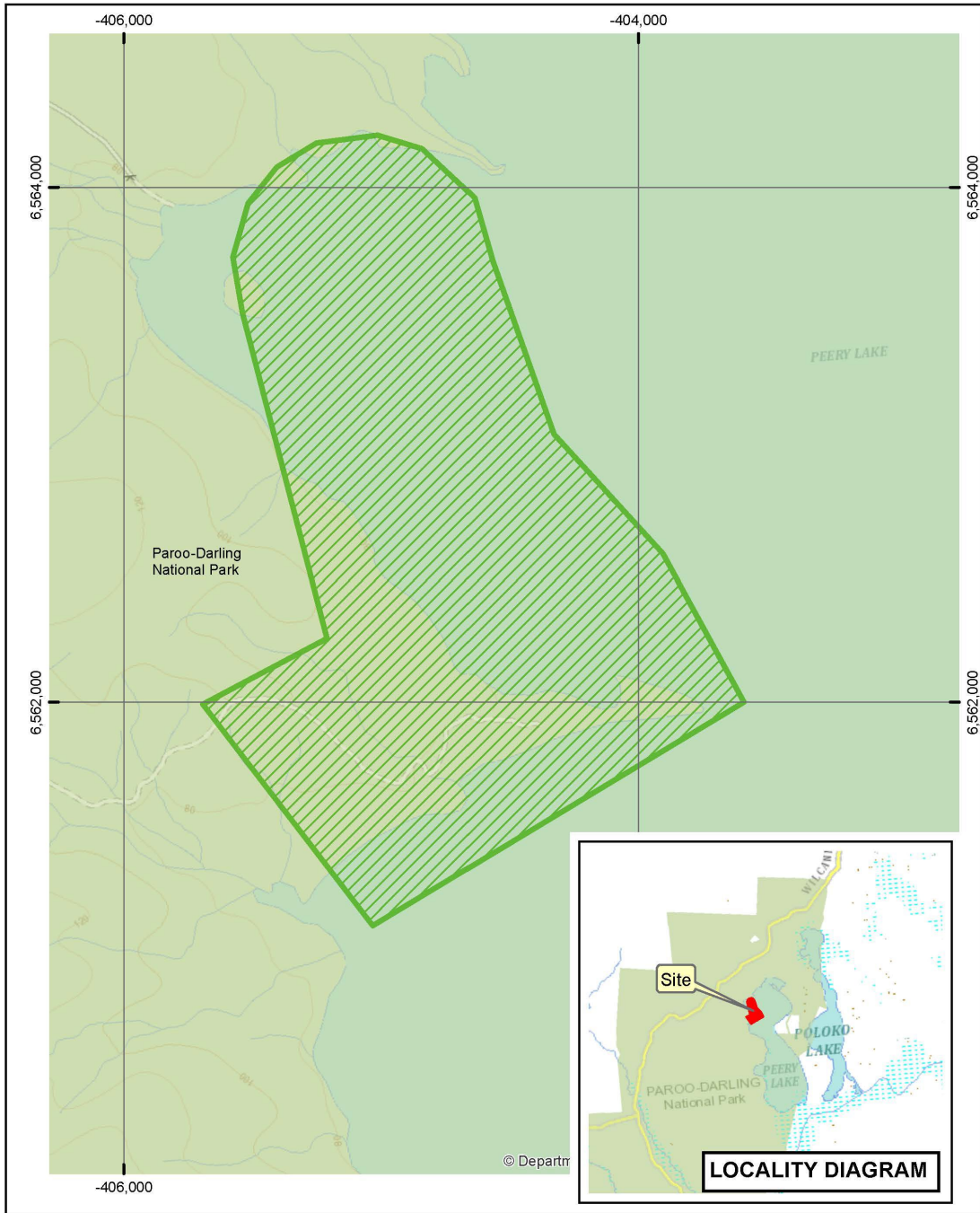
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au). The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition 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 asset (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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**Legend**


-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

**AIS-E0-028**  
Asset of  
Intergenerational Significance  
**Salt pipewort (*Eriocaulon carsonii*)**  
Paroo-Darling National Park

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Date approved      June 2023

Approved by      Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage Group

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