

Conservation Action Plan

Spotted tree frog (*Litoria spenceri*)

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-132, AIS-ES-133, AIS-ES-134
Site location	An area of 659 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 spotted tree frog	The spotted tree frog is a distinctive frog with grey to olive green back and, a whitish belly and orange groin and back legs. This is an extremely rare species that occurs among boulders or debris along naturally vegetated, rocky fast flowing upland streams and rivers. The spotted tree frog is a critically endangered frog with all known records in NSW occurring within Kosciuszko National Park. These sites support the only known population of this species in NSW.

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 predators	Predation of eggs and tadpoles by introduced fish, such as trout.
Feral herbivores	Competition and habitat degradation of spotted tree frog habitat by introduced herbivores, such as horses and deer, through grazing, trampling and fouling of waterways and ponds.
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.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	Infection by amphibian chytrid fungus causing the disease chytridiomycosis leading to the mortality of individuals. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at the sites.

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Key risk(s)	Description
Alteration of hydrological regimes	Scheduled or emergency water releases from nearby dams may damage individuals and/or habitat which may affect the persistence of the spotted tree frog 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 spotted tree frog at the sites. 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
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 spotted tree frog, and maintain the density at or below that level, by shooting and other approved integrated control measures. • To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral horses to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the spotted tree frog by trapping, mustering and removal, and ground shooting in accordance with a wild horse plan of management approved by the Secretary.
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 spotted tree frog, by targeted application of physical and/or biological weed control.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Alteration of hydrological regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to liaise with dam operators to ensure, to the extent practicable, water releases do not impact the habitat of spotted tree frog.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If required, supplement the captive bred population for reintroduction or translocation into suitable habitat at the sites. • 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 spotted tree frog population	Population estimate	Design and 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 5 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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