

# Conservation Action Plan

## *Asterolasia elegans*

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-E0-008, AIS-E0-009, AIS-E0-010
Site location	An area of 632 hectares in Parr State Conservation Area An area of 1996 hectares in Marramarra National Park
NPWS contact	Manager, Wollemi-Yengo Area, Blue Mountains Branch Manager, Sydney North West Area, Greater Sydney 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>Asterolasia elegans</i>	<p><i>Asterolasia elegans</i> is an endangered shrub growing up to three metres high. Parr State Conservation Area is the most north-western population and represented a range extension for the species when discovered in 2006. Three subpopulations are distributed along different ephemeral tributaries of Doyle's Hollow, west of Webb's Creek Fire Trail.</p> <p>Marramarra National Park contains the largest known population of <i>Asterolasia elegans</i>, occurring along the slopes and gullies along Laughtondale Gully Road, Maroota. The population at Marramarra Creek occurs on south and east facing, mid- to lower slopes and adjacent to a gully line.</p>

## 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	Too frequent fires cause recruitment of the soil-stored seedbank to be limited or destroyed by fire and post-fire regeneration can deplete the existing seedbank resulting in population decline or extinction. Fires of inappropriate intensity could also fail to break soil-stored seed dormancy (too cool) or kill soil-stored seed (too hot).
National park infrastructure development and maintenance	Road and trail use and management, including herbicide use and mechanical methods for roadside vegetation management can impact the species where populations are proximate to roads, utilities and other assets. Mitre drains can also cause excess water and sedimentation.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion of weeds to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is prevented.

## 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"> <li>• Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the <i>Asterolasia elegans</i> by 30 June 2022 and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas</li> <li>- implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas</li> <li>- integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
National park infrastructure development and maintenance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake periodic reviews to identify where increased nutrient runoff, sedimentation in adjacent waterways or other infrastructure impacts are having an adverse impact on <i>Asterolasia elegans</i> plants. If adverse impacts are observed, undertake an environmental assessment, and implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- relocation of mitre drains, or redirecting run-off to avoid known plants</li> <li>- upgrade of trails to avoid known plants</li> <li>- installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing or herbicide near sites.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove weed species that negatively impact on areas occupied by <i>Asterolasia elegans</i>, such as preventing the recruitment or establishment of plants, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.</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 taken 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>Asterolasia elegans</i> population	Population estimate: number of established individuals	Design, and undertake every three years, monitoring designed to generate an estimate of the number of established plants.  However, undertake the monitoring annually after a fire event for two years.

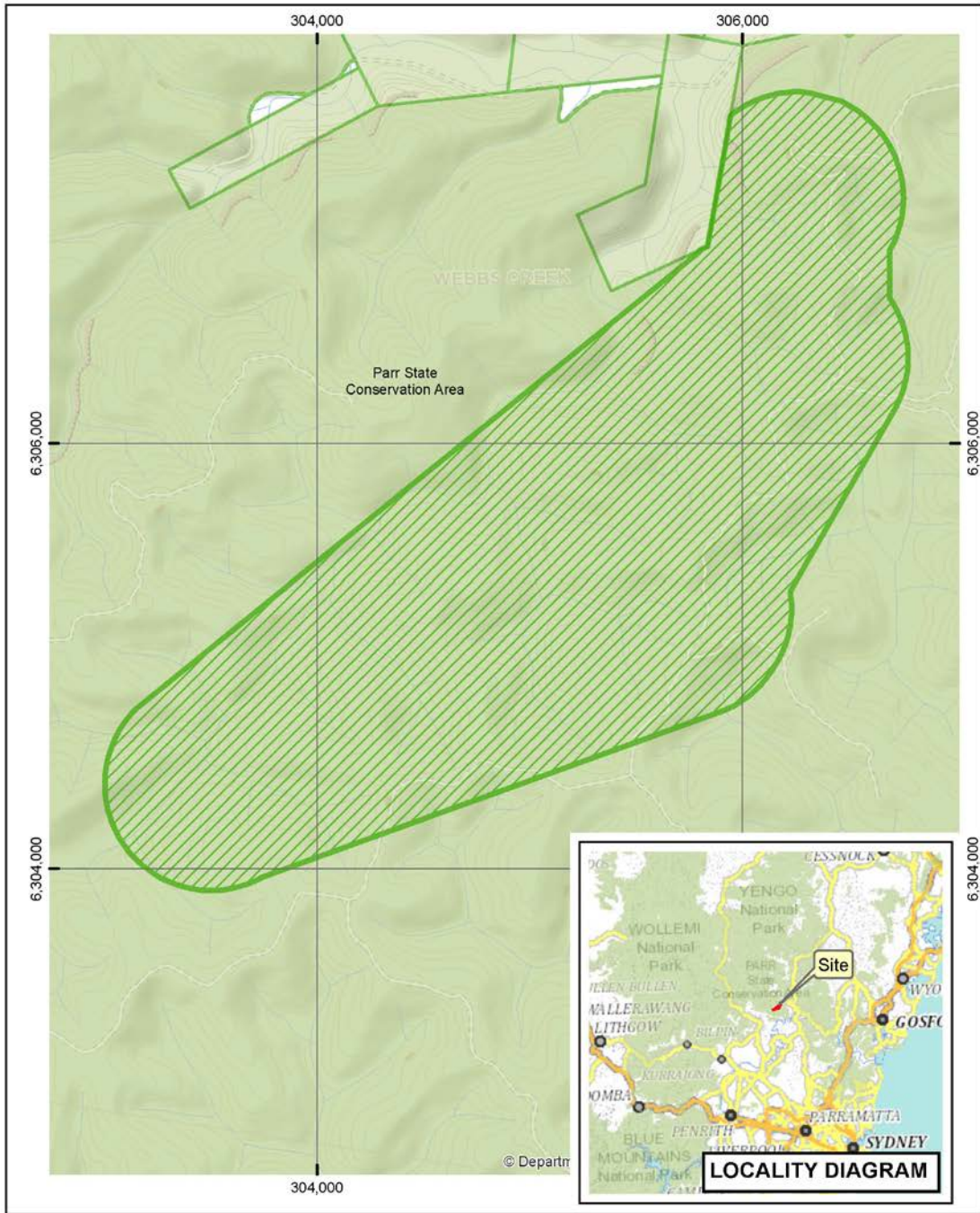
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment, [Environment, Energy and Science website](#). The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared 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)).

Conservation Action Plan – *Asterolasia elegans*





**Legend**

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

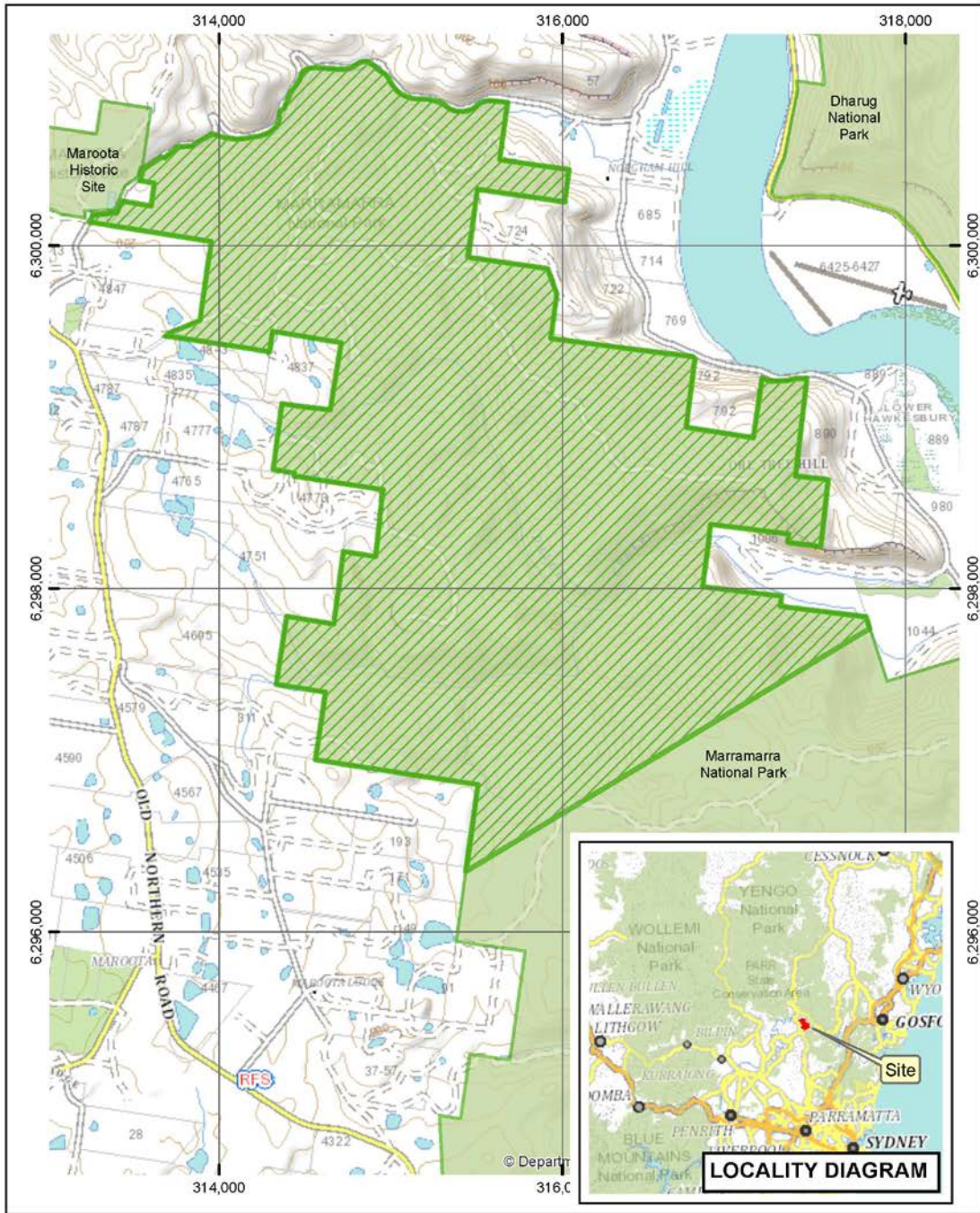
**AIS-E0-008**  
**Asset of Intergenerational Significance**  
*Asterolasia elegans*  
**Parr State Conservation Area**

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
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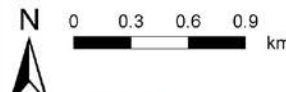
**Legend**



-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

**AIS-E0-009**  
**Asset of Intergenerational Significance**  
*Asterolasia elegans*  
**Marramarra National Park**

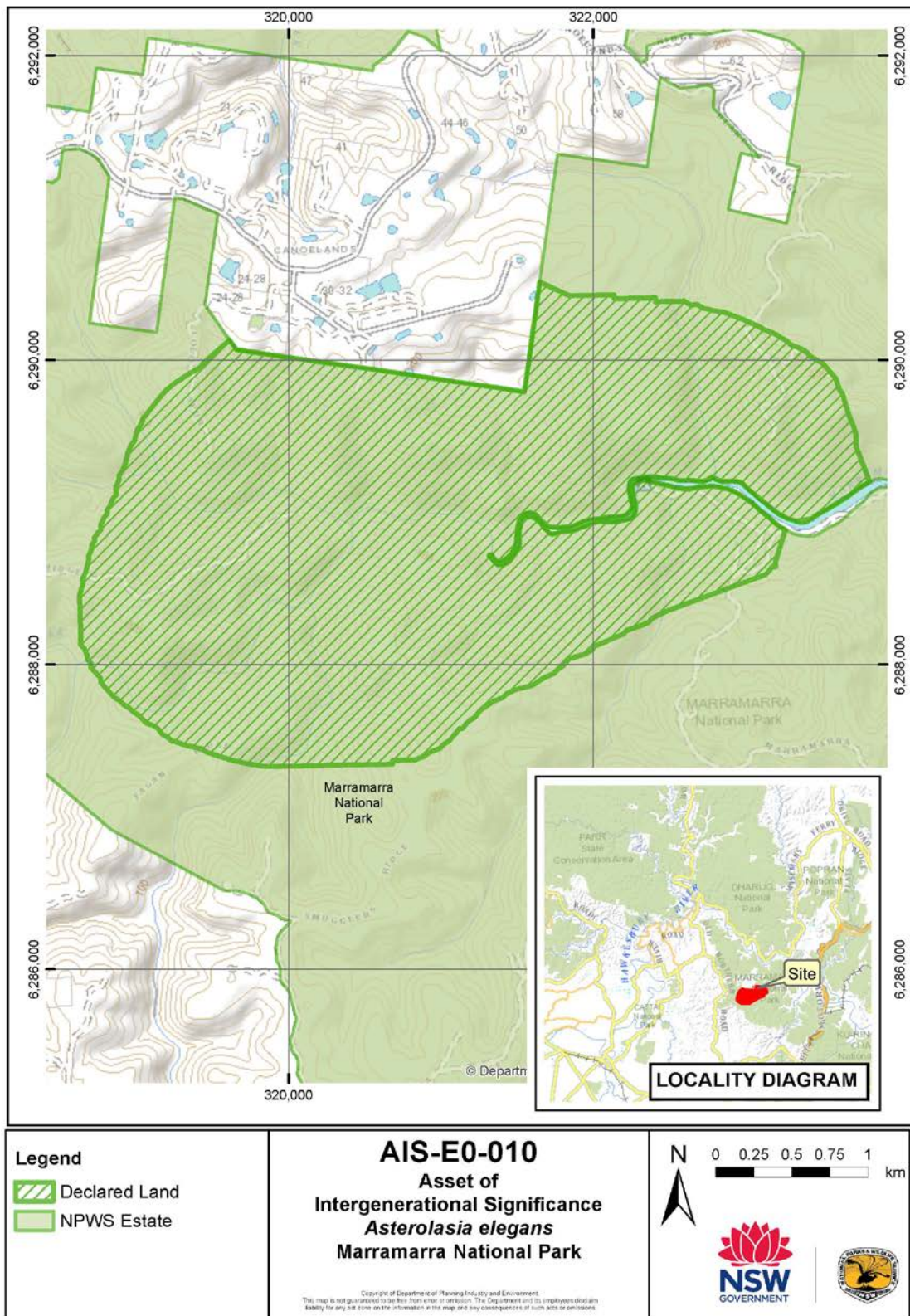
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Date prepared	October 2021
Date approved	5 February 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Deputy Secretary NPWS
Due for review	February 2027

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