

Conservation Action Plan

Budawang wallaby grass (*Plinthanthesis rodwayi*)

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-E0-061
Site location	An area of 13 hectares in Budawang National Park
NPWS contact	Team Leader Conservation, South Coast 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 Budawang wallaby grass	<p>Budawang wallaby grass is a critically endangered plant found exclusively on national park estate. Budawang wallaby grass can grow up to 50 centimetres tall and has rolled leaves. The flower spike contains hairy seed-bearing structures which have two small lobes at their tips. It usually flowers in mid-late January.</p> <p>The species can be found in open grassy heathlands on shallow soils, with this being the only known extant site.</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
Feral herbivores	Damage to individual plants and degradation of Budawang's wallaby grass habitat by introduced herbivores, such as rabbits, through grazing.
Interactions with native species	Competition with other native shrubs including <i>Gahnia</i> , <i>Leptospermum sp.</i> and <i>Banksia sp.</i> for light, space, and resources may impact persistence of Budawang's wallaby grass at the site.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Budawang's wallaby grass at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at this site.
Disturbance	Authorised infrastructure maintenance activities (e.g communication tower maintenance and upgrades) that lead to degradation of habitat and damage to individual plants.

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 rabbit densities to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Budawang's wallaby grass, and maintain densities at or below that level, by trapping, baiting and shooting.
Interactions with native species	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where impacts on Budawang's wallaby grass and its habitat are observed, reduce competition by slashing, prescribed burning or targeted physical control of encroaching native shrubs.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with State and Commonwealth proponents to ensure Budawang's wallaby grass is not adversely impacted by development around the communications tower.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ex-situ seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population. If required, augment the existing population and/or establish a new wild population with ex-situ material.

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 Budawangs wallaby grass population	Population count	Design, and implement every two years, monitoring to generate a count of the number of established plants in the population.

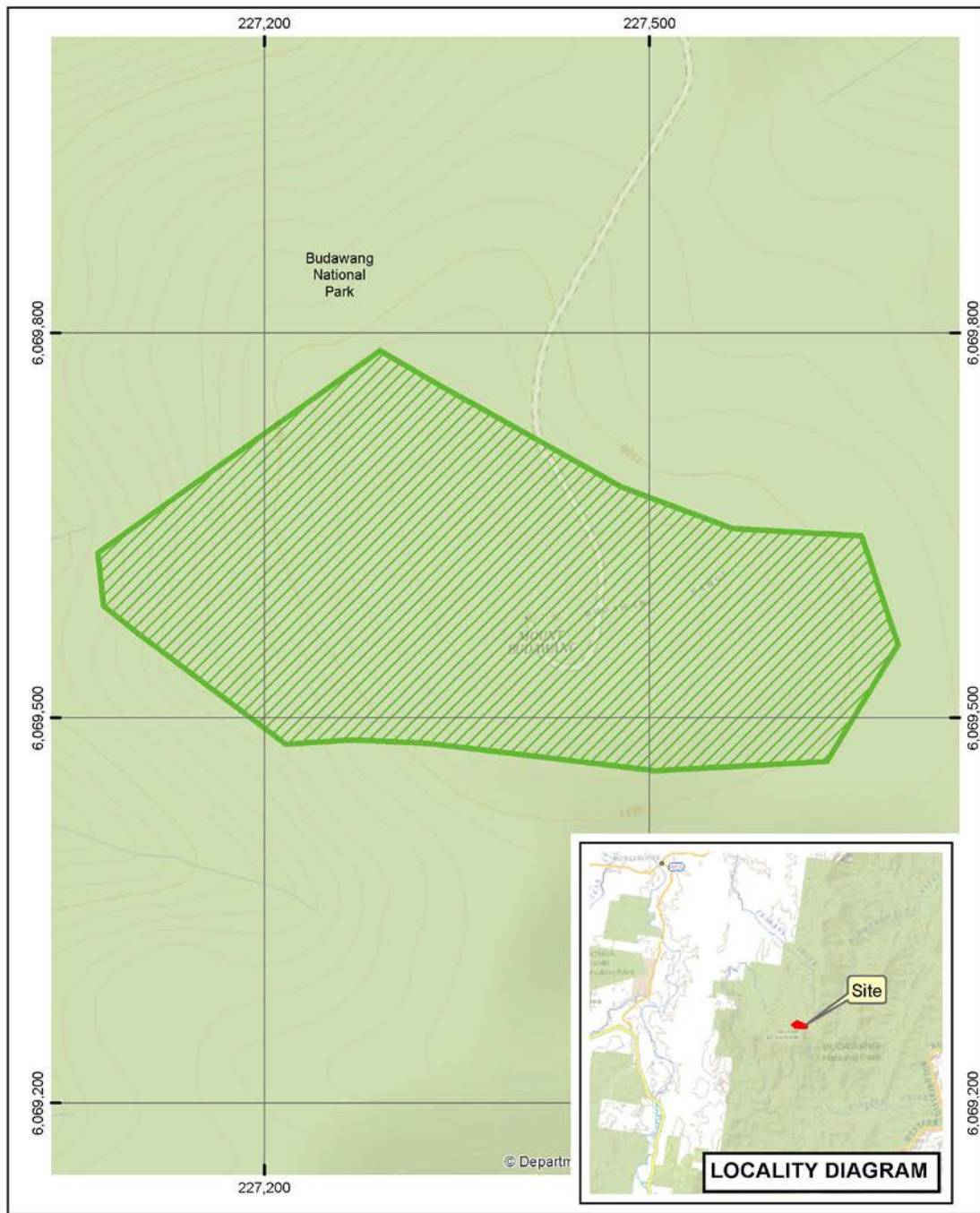
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land 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 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-E0-061
Asset of
Intergenerational Significance
Budawangs wallaby grass
(Plinthanthesis rodwayi)
Budawang National Park

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0 0.04 0.08 0.12 km

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