

Conservation Action Plan

Byron Bay diuris (*Diuris byronensis*)

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-111, AIS-ES-112
Site location	An area of 78 hectares in Arakwal National Park An area of 52 hectares in Broken Head Nature Reserve
NPWS contact	Team Leader Conservation, North Coast

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 Byron Bay diuris	Byron Bay diuris is an endangered orchid with 94 per cent of known records on national park estate. This species grows from a tuber and is not visible during summer and autumn. In late winter a single stem emerges producing lemon or golden yellow flowers with brown markings. The species occurs in low-growing grassy heath on clay soil.

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 that destroys plants and limits germination may lead to a decline of Byron Bay diuris population at the sites. This risk is exacerbated by its restricted distribution and small population size.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and/or spread of weeds (e.g., garden escapes) to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is impaired.
Disturbance	Visitor use that leads to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals by removal of plants by collectors. Chemical pollution and eutrophication that leads to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals caused by run-off from urban areas.

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 Byron Bay diuris 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 Byron Bay diuris by targeted application of physical, biological and/or chemical weed control.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether visitor activities and urban run-off are having an adverse impact on Byron Bay diuris. If adverse impacts are observed, implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - upgrade/realignment of trails to avoid known plants/habitat - undertaking compliance activities - application of control measures to minimise the impacts of run-off from urban areas.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ex-situ living collection and/or seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population. If required, augment the existing population or establish a new 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 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 Byron Bay diuris population	Population count	Design, and implement annually, a survey to count 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 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 Co-ordinator General, Environment and Heritage
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