

Conservation Action Plan

Connie's guinea flower (*Hibbertia circinate*)

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-E0-045
Site location	An area of 99 hectares in Mount Imlay 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 Connie's guinea flower	Connie's guinea flower is a critically endangered shrub to 1.5 metres tall. Leaves are 15-55 millimetres long and 5-8 millimetres wide, dark green on top and pale grey-green below. The solitary flowers are yellow. Flowering has been observed at most times of the year but is most prolific in spring. Connie's guinea flower mainly occurs in shrubby woodland dominated by <i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> with a diverse understorey. Some plants grow beneath the canopy of the endangered mallee <i>E. imlayensis</i> on the eastern face of Mt Imlay or beneath <i>E. fraxinoides</i> below the northern edge. The species occurs in a very narrow elevation range between about 800 and 850 metres. Connie's guinea flower is found exclusively on national park estate. This site is the only known population for this species.

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 limits germination and recruitment and destroys soil stored seedbank may lead to a decline or extinction of the Connie's guinea flower population at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the extremely restricted distribution and small population size of Connie's guinea flower at the site.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	Infection by <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> resulting in mortality of individual plants. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size of Connie's guinea flower.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes in weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the frequency and severity of drought conditions and intensity or extent of fire, may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Connie's guinea flower at the site.

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
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the Connie's guinea flower within 12 months of the 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.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement hygiene protocols as outlined in the DPIE Hygiene Guidelines (as published April 2020), as varied by any written advice from the Secretary from time to time for the purposes of this declared area. Maintain the hygiene stations at appropriate locations and minimise site visits to reduce the spread of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish ex-situ seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population. If required, augment the existing population 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 Connie's guinea flower population	Population estimate	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of individuals in the population.

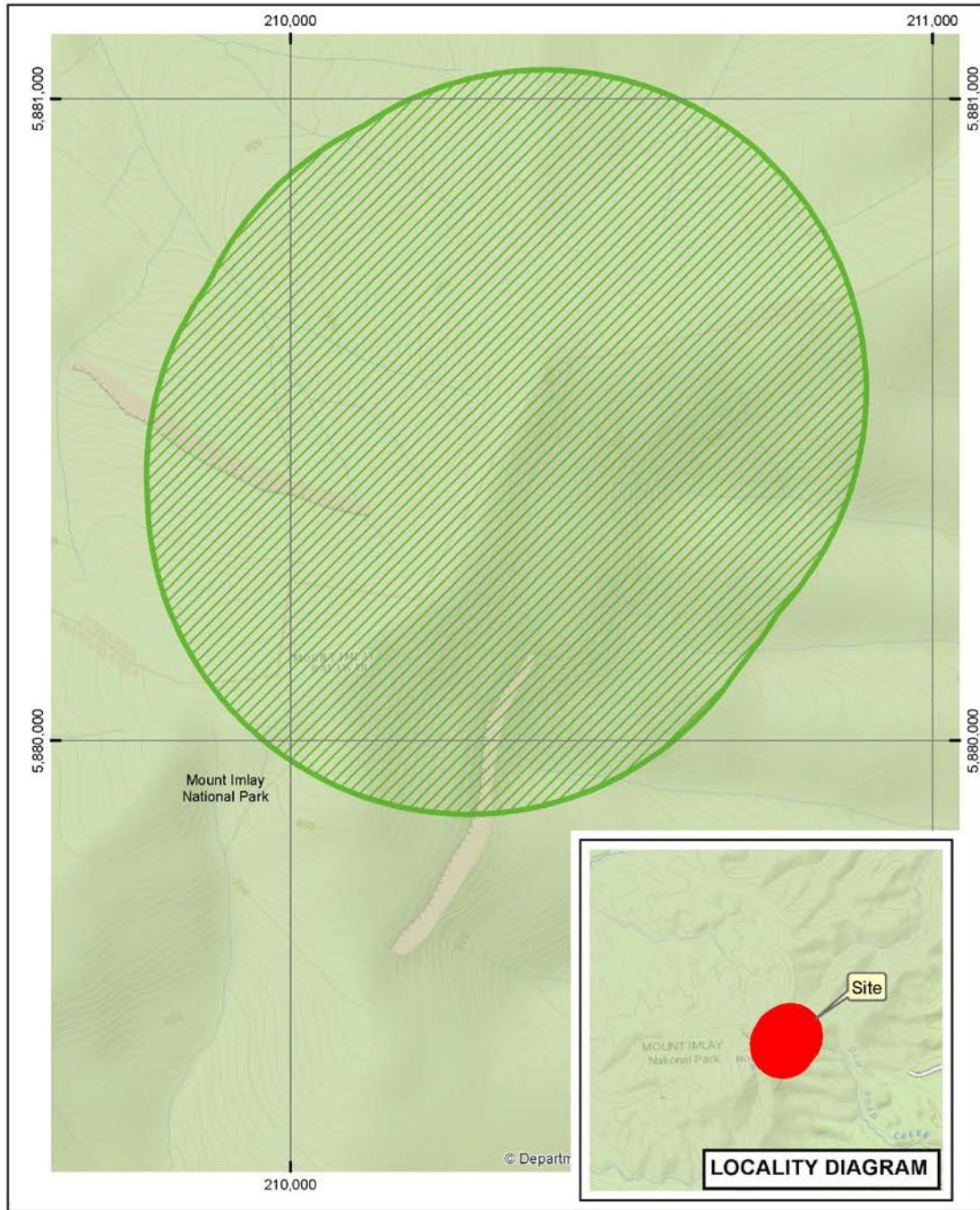
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land 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 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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<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declared Land  NPWS Estate 	<p>AIS-E0-045 Asset of Intergenerational Significance Connie's guinea flower <i>(Hibbertia circinata)</i> Mount Imlay National Park</p> <p><small>Copyright of Department of Planning Industry and Environment. This map is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The Department and its employees disclaim liability for any loss or damage on the information in this map and any consequences of such acts or omissions.</small></p>	<p>N</p> <p>0 0.085 0.17 0.255 km</p>  
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Date prepared	July 2022
Date approved	25 July 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
Due for review	July 2027

Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment,
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: 1300 361 967; email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; www.environment.nsw.gov.au
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