

Conservation Action Plan

Eastern bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*)

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-211, AIS-ES-212, AIS-ES-213
Site location	An area of 6941 hectares in Nadgee Nature Reserve An area of 3864 hectares in Budderoo National Park An area of 1888 hectares in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve An area of 1436 hectares in Jervis Bay 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 Eastern bristlebird	<p>The Eastern bristlebird is an endangered medium sized rufous brown bird, with a lighter grey appearance underneath, bright red eyes and a long and distinctive tail. They are ground-dwelling and commonly found scattering throughout dense vegetation and can be located by their loud and distinctive call. Central and southern populations of the Eastern bristlebird live in dense vegetation understories of heath and heathy woodland.</p> <p>At the time of preparation of this conservation action plan, population estimates indicate there are approximately 2000 birds across the AIS sites in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, Budderoo National Park and the Jervis Bay National Park. The AIS site in Nadgee Nature Reserve has an estimated population of up to 200 birds.</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	Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity that alters the vegetation composition and structure may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat and affect the persistence of the Eastern bristlebird at these sites. This risk is exacerbated by the small population size and reliance on adjacent habitat to recolonise after extreme fire events at these sites.
Feral predators	Predation of Eastern bristlebirds by foxes and feral cats. This risk is increased after bushfires and hazard reduction burns.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	Occurrence of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> infection in Eastern bristlebird habitat that changes the structure, composition and condition of vegetation communities may affect the persistence of the species at the site.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the frequency and severity of drought conditions and the frequency, intensity and extent of fire may exceed the species' adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Eastern bristlebirds. This risk is exacerbated by the small population size and reliance on adjacent habitat to recolonise after extreme fire events at these sites.
Unintended harm	Injury or mortality of individuals from vehicle strike.

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 Eastern bristlebird 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.
Feral predators	AIS-ES-212 AIS-ES-213	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, reduce the density of foxes to a level that is not having a negative impact on the Eastern bristlebird, and maintain the density at or below that level by shooting, trapping, and baiting. To the extent practicable, undertake opportunistic feral cat control (shooting, trapping or other approved methods) to reduce the density of cats to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Eastern bristlebird and maintain the density at or below that level.
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. Develop a hygiene management plan including emergency response procedures in the event of an outbreak or evidence of serious impact of pathogenic phytophthora, within 12 months of adoption of this plan. Implement the hygiene management plan.
Unintended harm	AIS-ES-213	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain signage to raise awareness about the risk to the Eastern bristlebird from vehicle strikes.

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)).

Eastern bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*)
Conservation Action Plan

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the Eastern bristlebird population	Population estimate	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to generate an estimate of the population size.

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)).

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
ISBN 978-1-76058-578-5; EHG 2022/0375; August 2022.