

# 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-161
Site location	An area of 4292 hectares in Border Ranges National Park
NPWS contact	Team Leader Conservation, North 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, favouring dense grassy understorey in elevated open forest. Although difficult to observe, Eastern bristlebird can be located by their distinctive call.</p> <p>Habitat for the northern populations is characterised by dense tussocky grass understorey and sparse mid-storey near rainforest ecotone in open forests. Northern habitats require frequent prescribed fire (three-six yearly) to maintain optimum habitat condition and suitability. Habitat for the northern population occurs on NPWS estate and adjacent privately owned lands which are increasingly involved in long term conservation management agreements.</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 the sites.  This risk is exacerbated by the very small population size and very high reliance on adjacent habitat to recolonise after extreme fire events at the site.
Feral predators	Predation of Eastern bristlebirds by foxes and feral cats.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment and spread of weeds (e.g., lantana, Crofton weed and mistflower) to the extent that the area of suitable habitat is reduced.
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, severity or extent of fire, may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Eastern bristlebird at the site.  This risk is exacerbated by the very small population size of Eastern bristlebirds at the site.

## 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 Eastern bristle bird by within 12 months of adoption of this plan 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> <li>• Implement fire management consistent with the guidance.</li> </ul>
Feral predators	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop feral predator incursion plan within 12 months of adoption of this plan, and in the event of an incursion, implement feral predator control response.</li> <li>• To the extent practicable, undertake opportunistic feral cat control by shooting, trapping or other approved methods to reduce the density of feral 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.</li> </ul>

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds to not have a negative impact on the Eastern bristlebird by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.</li> </ul>
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If required, supplement the existing captive bred population for reintroduction or translocation into suitable restored habitat.</li> <li>If required, augment the existing population or establish a new wild population with animals from the captive bred population.</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 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 Eastern bristlebird population	Population estimate	Design, and implement every two years, monitoring to estimate the number, distribution and occupancy of individuals at the site.

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](http://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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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Co-ordinator General, Environment and Heritage
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