

Conservation Action Plan

Kaputar rock skink (*Egernia roomi*)

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-113
Site location	An area of 285 hectares in Mount Kaputar National Park
NPWS contact	Project Officer, Threatened Species, Northern Inland 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 Kaputar rock skink	Kaputar rock skink is a critically endangered species with all known records occurring on national park estate. It is highly restricted to three distinct locations in Mount Kaputar National Park and is currently only known from retreat and sheltering sites on cliff edges and areas of extensive outcropping rock above elevations of 1200 metres.

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 vegetation composition and structure may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat and affect the persistence of the Kaputar rock skink at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the severely restricted and fragmented distribution and very small population size the species at the site.
Feral herbivores	Competition and degradation of Kaputar rock skink habitat by introduced herbivores, such as goats, through grazing, trampling and fouling of rock habitat.
Bush rock removal	Removal and disturbance of bush rock that leads to a damage and reduction in suitable habitat may affect the persistence of the Kaputar rock skink at the site.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that alters habitat structure, composition and resource availability may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of the Kaputar rock skink at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the severely restricted and fragmented distribution and very small population size of the species 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 Kaputar rock skink 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.
Feral herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, reduce density of feral herbivores such as feral goats, to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Kaputar rock skink, and maintain densities at or below this level, by trapping, baiting and shooting and other approved integrated control measures such as mustering and removal.
Bush rock removal	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and install interpretative signage to educate and raise awareness of the impacts to Kaputar rock skink from removal of bush rock, and how to minimise impacts. Dismantle rock stacks to discourage people from stacking.
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a decline in species trajectory is attributed to impacts of anthropogenic climate change investigate options for ex-situ management of the Kaputar rock skink.

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 Kaputar rock skink population	Population estimate	Design, and implement, every two to three years, 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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Date prepared	August 2022
Date approved	17 December 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
Due for review	August 2027

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ISBN 978-1-922975-23-2; EHG 2023/0029; January 2023.