

Conservation Action Plan

Leionema westonii

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-131
Site location	An area of 79 hectares in Oxley Wild Rivers 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 <i>Leionema westonii</i>	<p><i>Leionema westonii</i> is a rhizomatous and much-branched shrub that grows to 70 centimetres tall, with white flowers and narrow leaves 6–16 millimetres long and 1–1.8 millimetres wide.</p> <p>The species is known from a single population in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. It is a newly listed critically endangered plant.</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 kills adult plants and destroys the soil stored seedbank, may lead to a decline or extinction of <i>Leionema westonii</i> population at the site This risk is exacerbated by the extremely restricted distribution and small population size of the species.
Feral herbivores	Damage to individual plants and degradation of <i>Leionema westonii</i> habitat by introduced herbivores, such as feral goats, through grazing and trampling.
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 and fire events, may exceed the species adaptive capacity and lead to a decline of <i>Leionema westonii</i> 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 <i>Leionema westonii</i> 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 herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, reduce feral goat densities to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on <i>Leionema westonii</i>, and maintain densities at or below that level, by trapping, fencing or shooting.
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide supplementary watering or other emergency actions as required during prolonged periods of drought, to ensure species and population survival.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ex-situ living collection and seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population. If required, establish a new wild population in suitable habitat using 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 <i>Leionema westonii</i> population	Population count	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to count the number of individuals in the population.
	Area of occupancy	Design and implement an annual assessment to calculate the area of occupancy of <i>Leionema westonii</i> .

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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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
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