

# Conservation Action Plan

## Nielsen Park she-oak (*Allocasuarina portuensis*)

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-101, AIS-ES-102, AIS-ES-103
Site location	An area of 43 hectares in Sydney Harbour National Park
NPWS contact	Manager, Sydney North Area and Manager, Sydney South Area, Greater Sydney 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 Nielsen Park she-oak	Nielsen Park she-oak is an endangered slender shrub, three to five metres high. It is a slender shrub with smooth bark and wiry, articulated (jointed) branchlets to 27 centimetres long, dark green and drooping to spreading in habit. The original known habitat of the Nielsen Park she-oak is at Nielsen Park, however there are no wild plants remaining. All plants at these sites have been translocated, with 67 individuals located across three sites.

### 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	Fire is assumed to play an essential role in the life cycle of the Nielsen Park she-oak, with fire being an environmental trigger for regeneration. Lack of fire may have a detrimental effect by not providing post-fire conditions needed for the recruitment. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at this site.
Disturbance	Damage to individual plants and habitat by unauthorised visitor access and inappropriate use of the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at this site.
Weeds	Habitat degradation by invasion of weeds to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is prevented.

## 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 Nielsen Park she-oak by 30 June 2023 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> </ul>
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where required, delineate sites by sign, green post or barriers and install structures around juvenile plants to reduce the likelihood of unauthorised visitor use and/or to avoid significant impacts from authorised use.</li> </ul>
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove weed species that negatively impact on areas occupied by the Nielsen Park she-oak, such as preventing the recruitment or establishment of plants, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.</li> </ul>
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain ex-situ living collection and seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population at the PlantBank in Mount Annan.</li> <li>• Augment population with ex-situ material if the species declines below the population as identified in the 2022 population census.</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 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 Nielsen Park she-oak population	Population census: number of individuals	Count individual plants at each site annually.

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, [Environment, Energy and Science website](#). 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 conservation action plan (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	October 2021
Date approved	5 February 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Deputy Secretary NPWS
Due for review	February 2027