

Conservation Action Plan

Rough eyebright (*Euphrasia scabra*)

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-119, AIS-ES-120
Site location	An area of 1233 hectares in South East Forest 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 rough eyebright	Rough eyebright is an endangered semi-parasitic, annual herb, and can grow up to 0.5 metres tall. It has variable leaves on each individual plant, with those below the flower clusters being narrower and have more teeth. The flower tube is yellow, with the base of the flower having four lobes and being covered in hairs. Rough eyebright can be found in wet, peaty soil, amongst the margins of swampy grassland or sphagnum bogs. The species is self-fertilising however seed production may be dependent on season.

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
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g. blackberry, lotus and Yorkshire fog) to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is impaired.
Feral herbivores and pigs	Damage to individual plants and degradation of rough eyebright habitat by introduced herbivores, including feral deer, pigs and rabbits, through browsing, foraging and trampling.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climate conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the frequency and severity of drought conditions and changes swamp hydrology and vegetation as a result of erosion and creek incision, may exceed the species adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of rough eyebright at the sites. This risk is exacerbated by the small population size of the rough eyebright.
Disturbance	Degradation of habitat and damage to individual plants from vehicles may lead to population decline at the sites.

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
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on rough eyebright, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.
Feral herbivores and pigs	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, reduce feral deer, pig and rabbit densities to levels that are not having an ecologically significant impact on the rough eyebright, and maintain densities at or below those levels by trapping, baiting and shooting.
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, assess the influence of soil moisture on population size and distribution during periods of drought to determine impacts on rough eyebright and its habitat. If a decline in species trajectory is attributed to impacts of anthropogenic climate change, investigate options for ex-situ management.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install and maintain protective infrastructure, such as rock barriers, on tracks to minimise impacts from authorised and unauthorised vehicle access.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, establish ex-situ seedbank from a representative sample of the population. If required, augment the existing population or establish a new population with 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 rough eyebright population	Population count	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to count the number of individuals in the populations.

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