

# Conservation Action Plan

## Sand doubletail (*Diuris arenaria*)

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-109, AIS-ES-110
Site location	An area of 450 hectares in Tomaree National Park
NPWS contact	Ranger, Hunter Coast Area, Hunter Central 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 Sand doubletail	Sand doubletail is a small, endangered ground orchid. The light purple to mauve flower appears between August and September and are 20-30 millimetres wide. There are usually two leaves (15-50 centimetres long by 2-6 millimetres wide) that grow from the base of the plant. The species occurs in coastal heath and dry grassy eucalypt forest on sandy flats.

### 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 timing, frequency or intensity can destroy plants and may lead to a decline or extinction of Sand doubletail at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at this site.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g. lantana, bitou bush, Chinese violet, wildling pines) to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is impaired which may lead to Sand doubletail population decline at the site.
Disturbance	Authorised infrastructure maintenance activities and visitor use that leads to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals.

## 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 sand doubletail 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>
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on the sand doubletail, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.</li> </ul>
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether infrastructure maintenance or visitor use is having an adverse impact on the sand doubletail. If adverse impacts are observed, undertake actions to mitigate impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- upgrade/realignment of roads and trails to avoid known plants/habitat</li> <li>- installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing or herbicide use near sites</li> <li>- install signage or protective infrastructure, such as gates or barriers and undertake compliance action to minimise impacts of visitor use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If required, develop and implement appropriate guidance for staff, utility managers and contractors about appropriate maintenance practices that minimise impacts to sand doubletail.</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 sand doubletail population	Population count	Design, and implement every two to three years, monitoring to count the number of flowering individuals in the population.
	Area of occupancy	Design, and implement every two to three years, an assessment to calculate the area of occupancy of sand doubletail.

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 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)).

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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
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Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment,  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124  
Phone: 1300 361 967; email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au); [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)  
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