

Conservation Action Plan

Soft grevillea (*Grevillea mollis*)

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-128
Site location	An area of 401 hectares in Gibraltar Range 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 soft grevillea	Soft grevillea is an endangered shrub, growing one to three metres tall and wide, with clusters of six to twenty scarlet and softly hairy flowers at the ends of the branchlets, which may be produced at any time of year. The plant appears to depend on reproduction by seed, rather than resprouting after fire. It is found on ridges, slopes and creek flats in tall eucalypt forest at altitudes between 150 metres and 90 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 depletes the soil-stored seedbank may lead to the decline or extinction of the soft grevillea population at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size of soft grevillea.
Disturbance	Authorised infrastructure maintenance activities (e.g. trail maintenance) and visitor use may lead to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size of soft grevillea.

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"> • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of soft grevillea 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.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether walking track maintenance and/or visitor use is having an adverse impact on soft grevillea. If adverse impacts are observed implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - upgrades/realignment of tracks to avoid known plants - installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing or herbicide use near sites. - installation of protective barriers and structures around plants to minimise the impacts of visitor use.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish ex-situ seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the soft grevillea as well as any relevant symbionts (e.g. mycorrhizal fungi) • 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 soft grevillea population	Population estimate	Design, and implement every three years, monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of mature plants of soft grevillea in the population.
	Area of occupancy	Design and implement an annual assessment to calculate the area of occupancy of soft grevillea.

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)).

Date prepared	July 2022
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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; www.environment.nsw.gov.au
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