

Conservation Action Plan

Severn River heath-myrtle (*Micromyrtus grandis*)

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-135
Site location	An area of 343 hectares in Severn River Nature Reserve
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 Severn River heath-myrtle	Severn River heath-myrtle is an endangered shrub that can grow up to one to four metres tall with very small cream to pink flowers that appear between July and September. Severn River heath-myrtle occurs in open and exposed areas, growing in heath and low woodland. They are found in the crevices of acid volcanic rocky outcrops and shallow soil in the surrounding areas, at altitudes of 600 to 750 metres. This is the only known population of this species.

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/or limits germination and recruitment may lead to a decline or extinction of Severn River heath-myrtle population at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the severely restricted distribution of the species at this site.
Feral herbivores	Damage to individual plants and degradation of Severn River heath-myrtle habitat by introduced herbivores, such as feral goats, deer and rabbits, through grazing and trampling.

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 the insert Severn River heath-myrtle 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, deer and rabbit densities to levels that are not having an ecologically significant impact on the Severn River heath-myrtle, and maintain densities at or below those levels, by trapping, shooting and other approved integrated control measures.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain ex-situ seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population. • If required, augment the existing 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 undertaken 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 Severn River heath-myrtle population	Population estimate	Design, and implement every four years, monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of mature viable plants in the population.

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)).

Severn River heath-myrtle (*Micromyrtus grandis*)
Conservation Action Plan

Date prepared	August 2022
Date approved	17 December 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
Due for review	August 2027

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
ISBN 978-1-922975-36-2; EHG 2023/0042; January 2023.