



# Conservation Action Plan

## Mukarrthippi grasswren (*Amytornis striatus striatus*)

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-E0-285
Site location	An area of 40 hectares in Yathong Nature Reserve
NPWS contact	Team Leader – Conservation, West 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 Mukarrthippi grasswren	The critically endangered Mukarrthippi grasswren is a medium sized grasswren with a relatively slender bill, long tail, which is held cocked and is blackish brown in colour. This species is found amongst mature spinifex with an overstorey of mallee eucalypts. They forage mostly on the ground, eating seeds, fruits, insects and other invertebrates. Most records for this subspecies come from a single sandhill on the western side of Yathong Nature Reserve within the declared area.

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### 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 alters vegetation composition and structure may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat and food availability and affect the persistence of Mukarrhippi grasswren at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the small population size and restricted and fragmented distribution of the species at the site.
Feral predators	Predation of Mukarrhippi grasswren by foxes and feral cats. This risk is exacerbated by small population size.
Feral herbivores	Competition and habitat degradation of Mukarrhippi grasswren habitat by introduced herbivores, such as feral goats and rabbits, through grazing and trampling.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases frequency and severity of drought conditions, heat waves, and fire may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Mukarrhippi grasswren at the site.

### Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. control, abate or mitigate the key risks
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 Mukarrhippi grasswren 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>
Feral predators	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the density of foxes and feral cats to zero and maintain the density at zero by establishing a feral-free area that incorporates the declared land.</li> <li>• Prior to the establishment of the feral-free area, and to the extent practicable, reduce the density of foxes to a</li> </ul>

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Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
		<p>level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Mukarrhippi grasswren, and maintain the density at or below that level by baiting, trapping and shooting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to the establishment of the feral-free area, and to the extent practicable, reduce the density of cats to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Mukarrhippi grasswren, and maintain the density at or below that level by undertaking periodic feral cat control (e.g., shooting, trapping or other approved methods).</li> </ul>
Feral herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the density of goats to zero and maintain the density at zero by establishing a feral-free area that incorporates the declared land.</li> <li>• Prior to the establishment of the feral-free area, and to the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral goats to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Mukarrhippi grasswren, and maintain densities at or below that level by shooting and other approved integrated control measures such as mustering and removal.</li> <li>• To the extent practicable, reduce the density of rabbits to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Mukarrhippi grasswren, and maintain the density at or below that level by trapping, baiting, shooting and other approved integrated control measures.</li> </ul>
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If required, assess direct impact of anthropogenic climate change on the Mukarrhippi grasswren and its habitat.</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 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.

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### 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 Mukarrhippi grasswren population	Population estimate	Design and implement annual monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of Mukarrhippi grasswren at the site.

A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the department's 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 5 years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

## **Mukarrhippi grasswren (*Amytornis striatus striatus*) Conservation Action Plan**

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