

Conservation Action Plan

Botany Bay bearded orchid (*Pterostylis* sp. *Botany Bay*)

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-139
Site location	An area of 96 hectares in Kamay Botany Bay National Park
NPWS contact	Manager, Sydney South Area, Greater Sydney 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 Botany Bay bearded orchid	The site contains habitat for the Botany Bay bearded orchid, which is an endangered terrestrial orchid with a slender flowering stem to 20 centimetres in height. It has a solitary translucent green flower and occupies moist sites on skeletal sandy soils. This species is very similar to <i>Pterostylis plumosa</i> , however <i>P. plumosa</i> is found only on the tablelands and western slopes of New South Wales and has almost erect flowers which are larger and more robust than those 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	The species response to fire and its required fire regime is unknown – however, some fire regimes are likely to represent a risk to the survival of the population.
Disturbance	Damage to individual plants and habitat degradation from unauthorised visitor access and use of the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at this site.

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 Botany Bay bearded orchid by 30 June 2023 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.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitate areas affected by unauthorised use by 30 June 2023.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least two genetically representative seed collections at the PlantBank in Mount Annan to maintain an ex-situ seedbank.

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 Botany Bay bearded orchid population	Population census: number of individuals	Design, and implement every 3 years, a survey to count the number of plants in the population. The first survey is to be conducted by 30 December 2022.

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, [Environment, Energy and Science website](#). 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	October 2021
Date approved	5 February 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Deputy Secretary NPWS
Due for review	February 2027

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