

Saving our Species project 2013-14 annual report card

Megalong Valley Bottlebrush

Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Callistemon megalongensis</i>
NSW status:	Critically endangered
Commonwealth status:	Not listed
Management stream:	Site-managed



Photographer: Michael Hensen, Blue Mountains City Council

Overall project status*

- Populations at all key management sites are generally stable or increasing
- All management is being implemented as planned; too early to detect response to management at some sites
- Management at some sites requires review/amendment to ensure that the project is likely to meet its objectives
- Major review of / changes to the project required to ensure long-term objectives are likely to be met

*For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)

Project summary

Key management sites:	Megalong Valley
Action implementation:	6 of 8 actions were implemented as planned for the financial year (includes species population monitoring actions + other project actions fully or partially implemented)
Total expenditure:	\$26,992 (cash and in-kind)
Project partners:	Blue Mountains City Council; Ecological Surveys and Planning; Office of Environment and Heritage

Management site 1: Megalong Valley

LGA: Blue Mountains

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Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
Unknown	Yes	Blue Mountains City Council	Stable

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Blue Mountains City Council	\$3,172
Ecological Surveys and Planning	\$3,000
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$20,820

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2013-14 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
High frequency fire, as well as intense hot fires that burn the peat layers of the swamp habitat. Also lack of fire may result excessive weedy scrub development.	Undertake trial burns to determine if positive response is obtained. This site has an absence of fire due to pasture maintenance and asset protection. From results, build an appropriate fire interval and management. Incorporate into Blue Mountains fire action for sensitive species (<i>Pultenaea glabra</i>).	Yes
High frequency fire, as well as intense hot fires that burn the peat layers of the swamp habitat. Also lack of fire may result excessive weedy scrub development.	Monitor species recruitment and adult condition immediately post-fire event and subsequently every 6 months for 3 years.	No
Road upgrades and maintenance of road verges, powerlines and water mains where this species occurs can cause direct damage to plants as well as erosion, sedimentation, weed invasion and other forms of degradation to the habitat of this species.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species where it occurs in proximity to road edges.	Yes
Road upgrades and maintenance of road verges, powerlines and water mains where this species occurs can cause direct damage to plants as well as erosion, sedimentation, weed invasion and other forms of degradation to the habitat of this species.	Install signage and guide posts along Nellie's Glen Road to identify it as an environmentally sensitive area and prevent harm.	Partial
The small total population size, small size of individual populations, small area of habitat, concentration of habitat within a relatively small area, and inadequate representation in formal conservation reserves make this species highly vulnerable to threatening processes.	Re-introduce ex-situ material (e.g. seed) or material collected from other extant populations into existing site/s. Continue maintenance of the population until it is viable and able to persist for long periods without intensive management. There is alternative habitat around Narrow Neck as well.	No
Weed invasion, particularly Japanese Honeysuckle and Blackberry.	Survey to assess threats impacting on known populations.	Yes
Weed invasion, particularly Japanese Honeysuckle and Blackberry.	Liaison with landholders to determine if they will participate in weeding and other threat abatement activities as needed. Provision of incentive money and support.	Partial

Site summary

Monitoring quadrats were established, two within National Park and one on private land. An assessment of threats was undertaken. Areas of potential habitat were surveyed resulting in small northern and southern range extensions.