

## Saving our Species project 2013-14 annual report card

### Narrabarba Wattle

#### Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Acacia constablei</i>
NSW status:	Vulnerable
Commonwealth status:	Vulnerable
Management stream:	Site-managed



Photographer: Murray Fagg

#### 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:	Narrabarba Hill Flora Reserve
Action implementation:	4 of 4 actions were implemented as planned for the financial year (includes species population monitoring actions + other project actions fully or partially implemented)
Total expenditure:	\$9,380 (cash and in-kind)
Project partners:	Forestry Corporation of NSW; Office of Environment and Heritage

## Management site 1: Narrabarba Hill Flora Reserve

LGA: Bega Valley

Project partners: Forestry Corporation of NSW; Office of Environment and Heritage

### Species population monitoring action

*Reported trends are based on best available information*

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
200	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Stable

### Investment

*This includes cash and in-kind contributions*

Project participant	Investment
Forestry Corporation of NSW	\$800
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$7,530

### 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?
Competition from native shrubs.	Investigate whether removal of competing native shrubs has a positive impact on <i>Acacia constablei</i> . Most effective to do it in the vicinity of <i>Acacia constablei</i> seedlings, since many of the larger plants are already moribund.	Yes
Controlled and uncontrolled fire is the most serious potential threat to populations, particularly fires occurring at intervals too frequent to allow the regeneration following previous fire to produce sufficient seed to enable a new generation of recruitment.	Investigate role of fire in maintaining the species and determine an appropriate fire frequency.	Yes
The highly restricted distribution of this species and the current low population size make this species highly vulnerable to stochastic events such as drought and fire.	Consultant to search additional rock outcrops in vicinity of Narrabarba Hill for unrecorded populations. Consultant to also investigate record of species from near Green Cape.	Yes

## Site summary

Field surveys were conducted to determine current populations size at known sites. These surveys confirmed that the population size of 5,000 + plants recorded in 1986 had declined to 200 plants in January 2014. Surveys at other possible sites failed to locate additional populations. Research plots have been established to determine the possible cause for the current absence of Phantom Wattle plants. The role of the absence of fire and of shrub competition is being investigated. There are no obvious other threats that can be attributed to the cause of the dramatic population decline since 1986.