

Help save the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin

Conservation status in NSW: Critically Endangered Ecological Community

Commonwealth status: Endangered

Saving our Species management stream: Ecological community (range-restricted)

Community profile:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10065>

The Saving our Species program aims to conserve threatened species and ecological communities in the wild in NSW in the long term. The project was developed by experts who have identified a minimal set of priority management sites for this community across its distribution, soils and altitudinal range, to be representative of its structure and composition. Experts have identified on-ground critical management actions to address threats at each site.

Six priority management sites have been identified in NSW (ordered north to south). They are:



- Artesian S4 in Walgett LGA
- Old Gerara in Bourke LGA
- Thoroo in Bourke LGA
- Artesian S3 in Bourke LGA
- Scrubber in Bourke LGA
- Peery Lake in Central Darling LGA

More information about each site is provided on the following pages.

All conservation work being undertaken to conserve the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin around the state is vital to its recovery. If you are carrying out critical management actions within the ecological community, please let us know at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/contactus.htm.

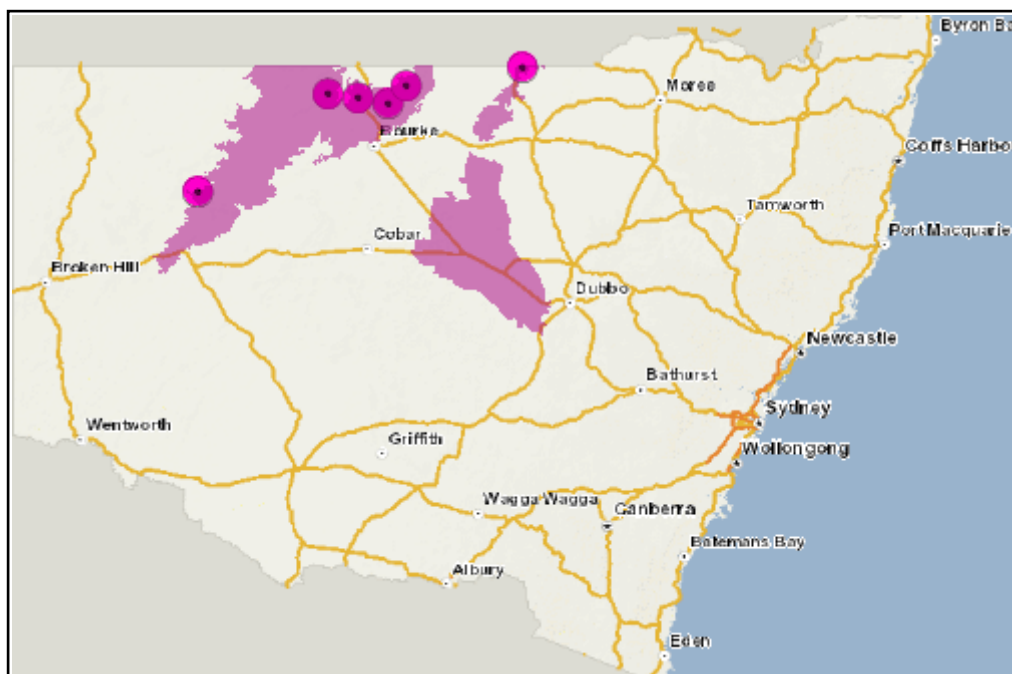
Map of Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin distribution and priority management sites

Legend

-  Community distribution
-  Priority management site

Indicative community distribution is mapped as sub-regions where the ecological community is known to occur.

Priority management sites are required for meeting the security objective for SoS-managed ecological communities.




Site 1: Artesian S4

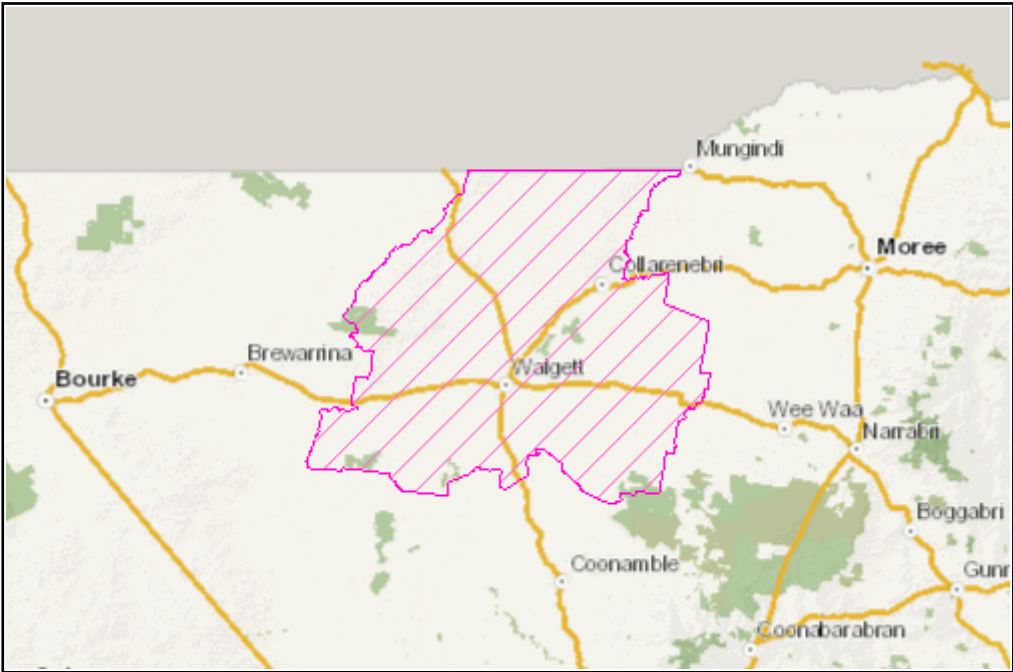
This management site occurs within the Walgett Local Government Area (LGA). Due to the sensitive nature of the community or the site, the exact location cannot be identified. If you would like more information or are interested in becoming involved in the conservation of this ecological community, please register your interest via the SoS website.

Total site area (ha): 1,105

LGA: Walgett

Management site map

Legend
 Priority management site LGA boundary



Management activities to protect the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin at the site

Threat name	Objective	Action
Lack of knowledge of threats	Assess extent/severity or mechanism of threatening processes	Land manager negotiation
Uncertainty of future land management practices	Ensure land management is sympathetic to the long term requirements of the species	Negotiate land management agreement/s
Feral pigs	Prevent pest species invasion to the site	Fencing - exclude larger pest animals

Monitoring actions

Regular monitoring of the threatened ecological community's extent and condition on the site will be conducted to determine trends through time. The extent and severity of threats will also be monitored to assess the effectiveness of management actions. Management actions will be adapted, added or removed over time in response to monitoring results, based on maximising the project's effectiveness.

Site 2: Old Gerara


The site is within Ledknapper Nature Reserve east of Enngonia. It is historically disturbed through excavation.

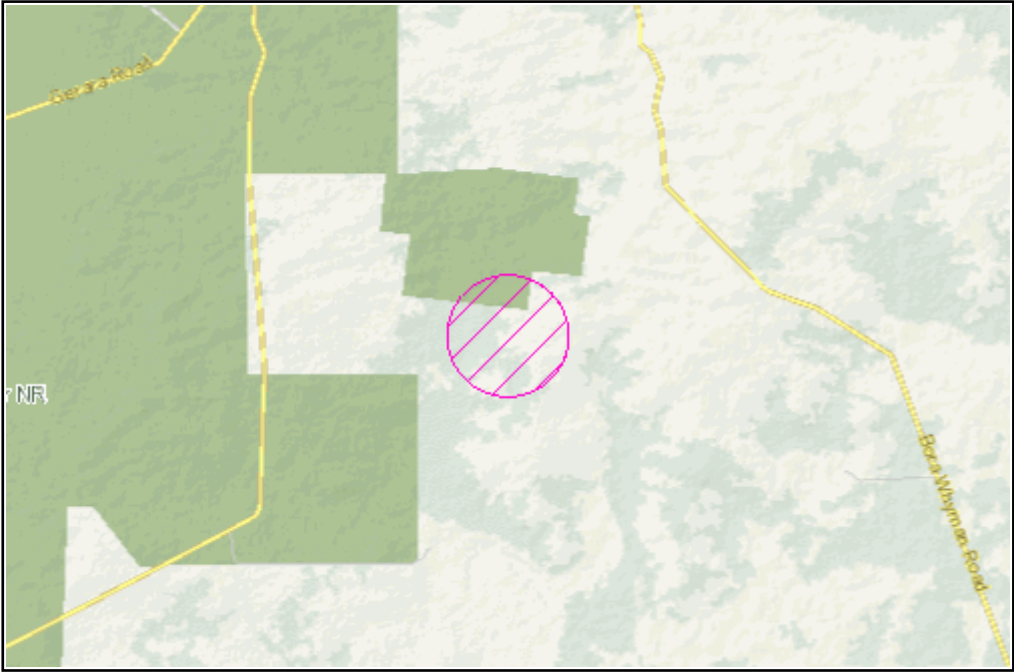
Total site area (ha): 1,102

LGA: Bourke

NPWS reserve: Ledknapper Nature Reserve

Management site map

Legend
 Priority management site



Management activities to protect the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin at the site

Threat name	Objective	Action
Rural/residential/industrial development	Restore or supplement habitat or habitat features	Manage drainage

Monitoring actions

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Site 3: Thoroo

The site is located east of Yantabulla. It is unique in that it is a mud springs complex. The complex consists of around 20 active and inactive springs. Some of the inactive mounds were probably inactive since pre-European settlement. The active springs are mostly muddy depressions within an area naturally devoid of vegetation which appears heavily eroded or scalded.

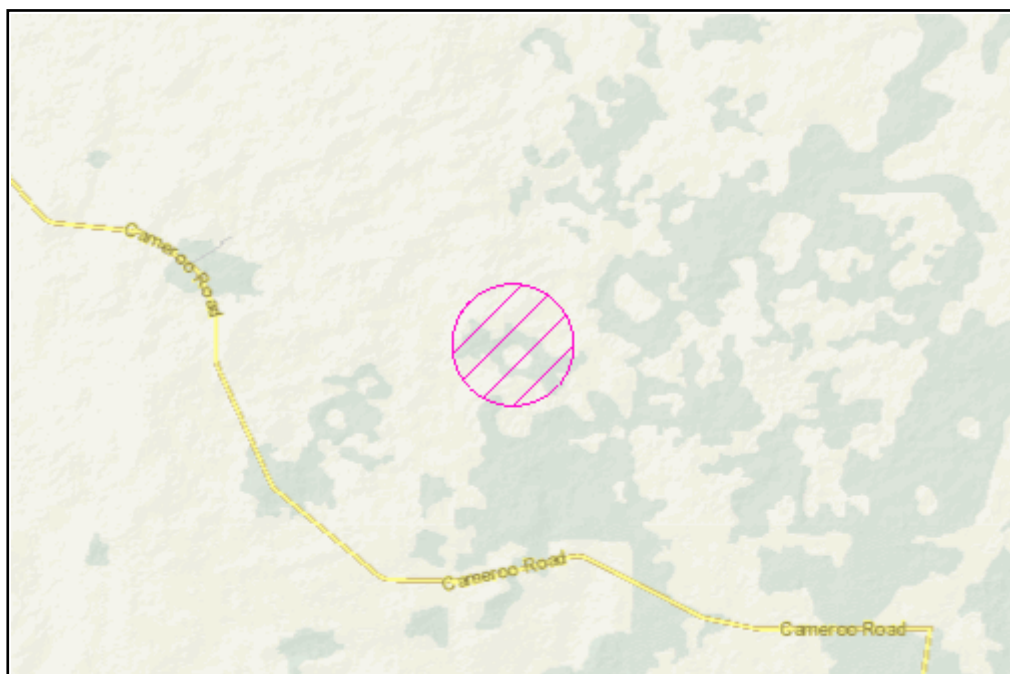
Total site area (ha): 1,101

LGA: Bourke

Management site map

Legend

 Priority management site



Management activities to protect the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin at the site

Threat name	Objective	Action
Feral pigs	Prevent pest species invasion to the site	Fencing - exclude larger pest animals
Lack of knowledge of threats	Assess extent/severity or mechanism of threatening processes	Land manager negotiation
Uncertainty of future land management practices	Ensure land management is sympathetic to the long term requirements of the species	Negotiate land management agreement/s

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Site 4: Artesian S3

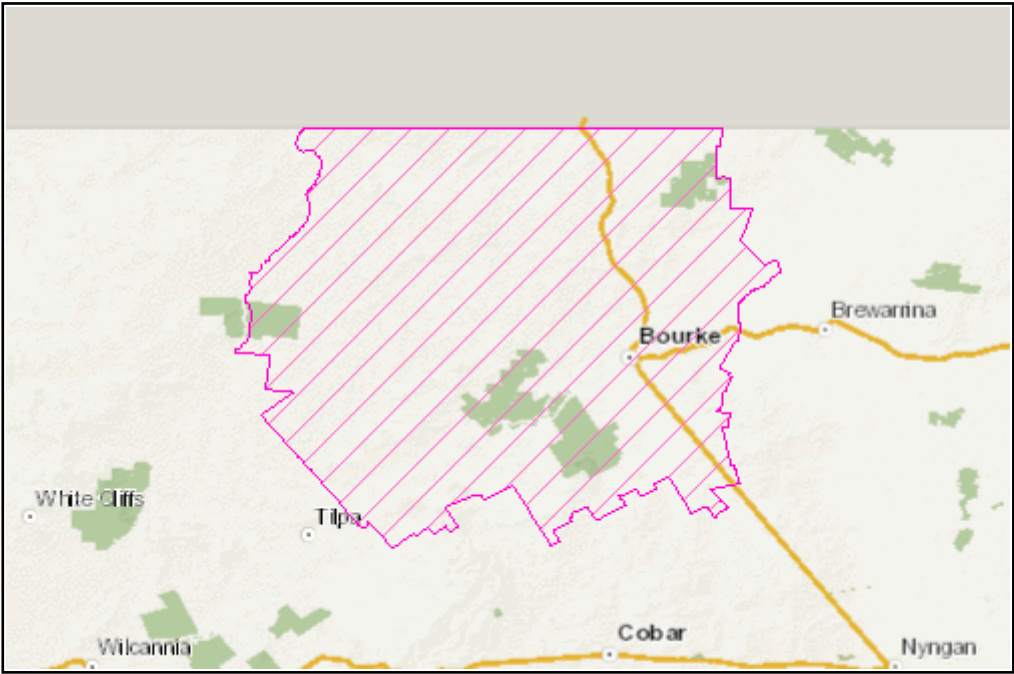
This management site occurs within the Bourke Local Government Area (LGA). Due to the sensitive nature of the community or the site, the exact location cannot be identified. If you would like more information or are interested in becoming involved in the conservation of this ecological community, please register your interest via the SoS website.

Total site area (ha): 1,100

LGA: Bourke

Management site map

Legend
 Priority management site LGA boundary



Management activities to protect the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin at the site

Threat name	Objective	Action
Feral pigs	Prevent pest species invasion to the site	Fencing - exclude larger pest animals
Lack of knowledge of threats	Assess extent/severity or mechanism of threatening processes	Land manager negotiation
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Site 5: Scrubber


Site is located southwest of Enngonia on a slight rocky rise. The topography is quite different to the usual springs in scalds or ephemeral lakes and claypans. The site is representative of the northern limit of artesian spring community distribution in NSW.

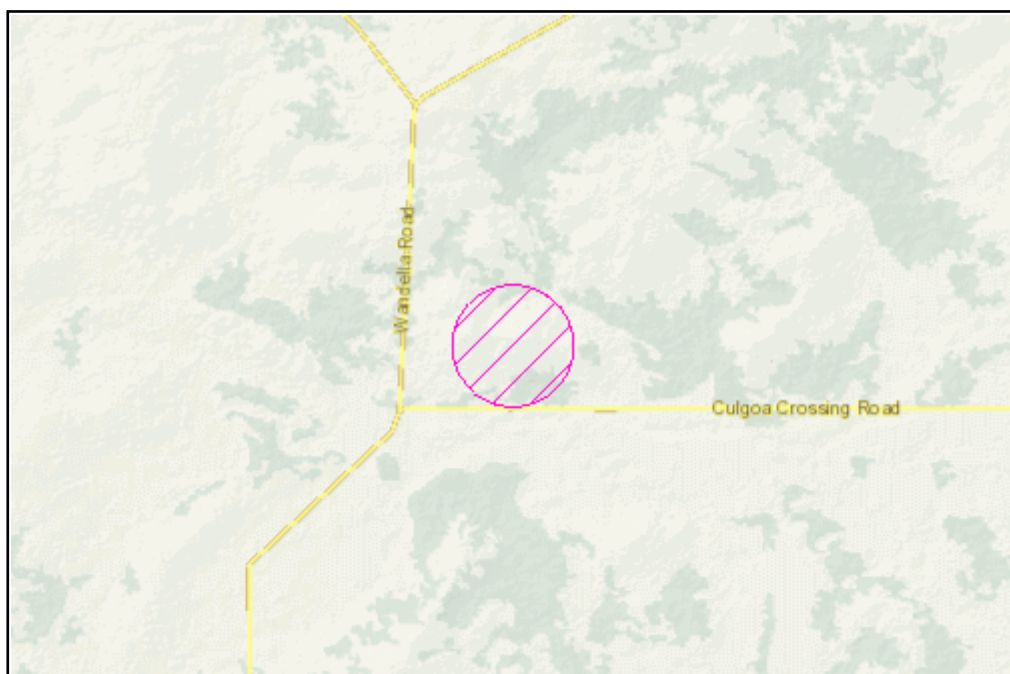
Total site area (ha): 1,100

LGA: Bourke

Management site map

Legend

 Priority management site



Management activities to protect the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin at the site

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Feral pigs	Prevent pest species invasion to the site	Fencing - exclude larger pest animals
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Site 6: Peery Lake

The site is located east of White Cliffs within Paroo-Darling National Park at the southern limit of this ecological community. This site covers about 70% of known artesian springs in NSW. The area is approximately two kilometres long by 500 metres wide. The majority of the springs are on the western side of Lake Peery, with outlier springs on the eastern shore (two subpopulations). It is the only location supporting *Eriocaulon carsonii* (a plant species associated with artesian springs).

Total site area (ha): 1,085

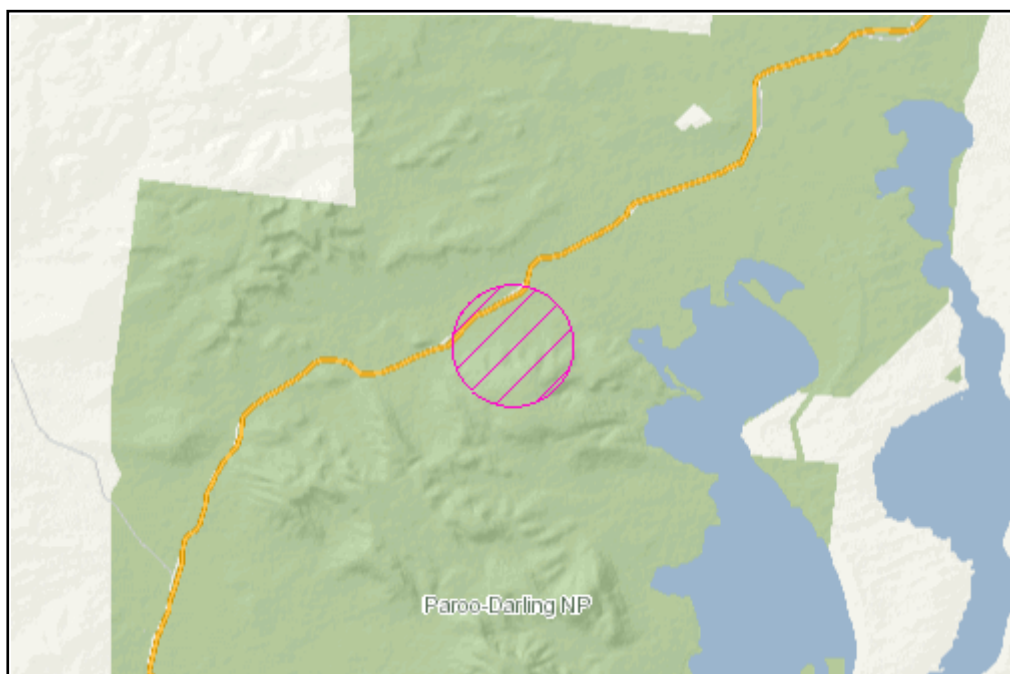
LGA: Central Darling

NPWS reserve: Paroo-Darling National Park

Management site map

Legend

 Priority management site



Management activities to protect the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin at the site

Threat name	Objective	Action
Feral pigs	Reduce impacts of pest species	Fencing - exclude larger pest animals
Feral pigs	Reduce impacts of pest species	Pig control
Feral goats	Reduce impacts of pest species	Goat control
Rabbits	Reduce impacts of pest species	Rabbit control
Disturbance from recreational users	Minimise impacts of recreational activities	Community education
Disturbance from recreational users	Minimise impacts of recreational activities	Install signage

Monitoring actions

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Are you helping to save threatened ecological communities?

Find out more about our program - visit <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies>

Tell us about the work you're doing - visit <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/tellusaboutyourwork.htm>

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