

Saving our Species project 2015-2016 annual report card

Booroolong Frog

Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>
NSW status:	Endangered
Commonwealth status:	Endangered
Management stream:	Site-managed



Photographer: Dave Hunter

Overall project status*



Populations at all sites are on target.



Populations at one or more sites were not monitored this year, but threat management is on target.
Populations at remaining sites are on target.



Populations at one or more sites were not monitored this year, but threat management is not on target.
Populations at remaining sites are on target.



Populations at one or more sites are not on target.

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

Project summary

Priority management sites:	Abercrombie River; Adjungbilly Creek; Cockburn River Catchment; Goobarragandra; Jingellic Catchment; Peel River Catchment; Sewells Creek Catchment
Action implementation:	17 of 17 actions were implemented as planned for the financial year (includes species population monitoring actions + other project actions fully or partially implemented)
Total expenditure:	\$334,171 (\$166,743 cash; \$167,428 in-kind)
Project partners:	Central Tablelands Local Land Services; Kanangra-Boyd to Wyangala Link (GER); Murray Local Land Services; Office of Environment and Heritage; NSW Environmental Trust; Riverina Local Land Services

Management site 1: Goobarragandra

LGA: Tumut

Project partners: None.

Estimated species population size: > 1000

No actions were implemented at this site for this financial year.

Site summary

Not entered

Management site 2: Cockburn River Catchment

LGA: Tamworth Regional; Walcha

Project partners: None.

Estimated species population size: Unknown

No actions were implemented at this site for this financial year.

Site summary

Opportunities to implement management actions at this site are limited. This management site will be removed from the Booroolong Frog project.

Management site 3: Peel River Catchment

LGA: Tamworth Regional; Upper Hunter

Project partners: None.

Estimated species population size: 650

No actions were implemented at this site for this financial year.

Site summary

Management actions and monitoring at this site will be funded by an offset associated with loss of habitat due to the Chaffey Dam extension (which will destroy 2km of occupied stream). This offset project will commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

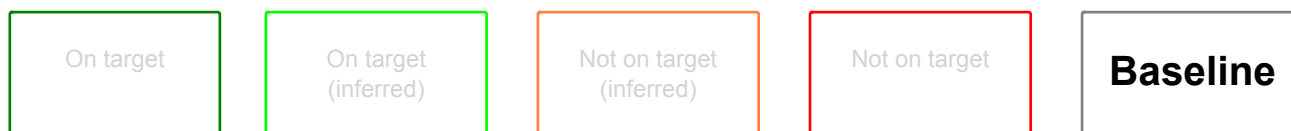
Management site 4: Sewells Creek Catchment

LGA: Bathurst Regional; Oberon

Project partners: Central Tablelands Local Land Services; NSW Environmental Trust; Office of Environment and Heritage

Estimated species population size: Baseline index not determined

Population status



Index	Monitoring result	Confidence in monitoring	Conducted by
Species abundance	Baseline data	Moderate	Office of Environment and Heritage

Investment

Project participant	Cash	In-kind
Central Tablelands Local Land Services	\$0	\$10,288
NSW Environmental Trust	\$25,000	\$0
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$0	\$6,084

Management actions

The project actions below (including research and survey actions) are those identified as being required in 2015-16 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Damage to stream margins by stock.	Liaise with landholder(s) with grazing properties adjacent to rivers and tributaries about entering into a voluntary management agreement to maintain or enhance the species and its habitat. Provide incentives for landholder(s) to regulate stock access in riparian areas.	Yes
Damage to stream margins by stock.	Liaise with Forests NSW in the development of 10 year management agreements for grazing / disturbance of riparian areas. Ensure forestry activity and/or grazing do not disturb critical areas of habitat.	Yes
Weed invasion of streamside habitats, particularly by willows.	Cut and paint seedlings in the riparian zone where cost-effective. Staged removal of large willows, leaving stumps and removing debris to minimise disturbance to stream margins. Revegetate these areas to stabilise stream banks.	Yes

Threat status

This table includes critical threats that were monitored at this site, this financial year.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status	Confidence in monitoring
Damage to stream margins by stock.	Undertaken with species monitoring, no cost associated with action.	Baseline	Moderate
Weed invasion of streamside habitats, particularly by willows.	Incorporated into species monitoring, baseline only.	Baseline	Moderate

Site summary

Management agreements established with Forests Corporation and Hume Forests for Booroolong Frog habitat around Essington State Forest, including mapping of threats and planning for specific management. Monitoring undertaken as planned.

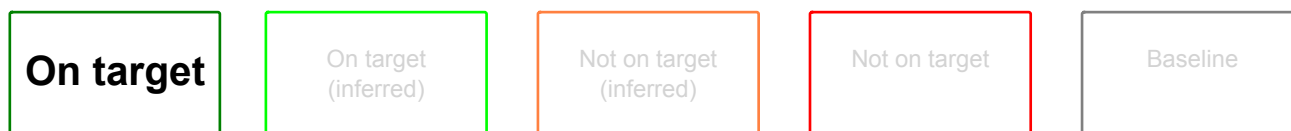
Management site 5: Jingellic Catchment

LGA: Greater Hume; Tumbarumba

Project partners: Central Tablelands Local Land Services; Murray Local Land Services; NSW Environmental Trust;
Office of Environment and Heritage

Estimated species population size: >300 breeding males

Population status



Long term target	Annual target	Index	Monitoring result	Confidence in monitoring	Conducted by
Determine temporal trends in distribution and abundance in response to threat management.	There were no specific target for this financial year.	Species extent of occurrence	There has been a reduction in the abundance of calling males by 200% over the past 3 years. This results was anticipated.	Moderate	Central Tablelands LLS

Investment

Project participant	Cash	In-kind
Murray Local Land Services	\$0	\$30,000
NSW Environmental Trust	\$50,000	\$0
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$0	\$4,000

Management actions

The project actions below (including research and survey actions) are those identified as being required in 2015-16 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Weed invasion of streamside habitats, particularly by willows.	Cut and paint seedlings in the riparian zone where cost-effective. Staged removal of large willows, leaving stumps and removing debris to minimise disturbance to stream margins. Revegetate these areas to stabilise stream banks.	Yes

Threat status

This table includes critical threats that were monitored at this site, this financial year.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status	Confidence in monitoring
Damage to stream margins by stock.	The objective for this year was to baseline the transects in terms of available breeding habitat, drought refuge, and extent of weeds.	Not detectable	Moderate
Weed invasion of streamside habitats, particularly by willows.	Baseline the extent of the threat.	Baseline	Moderate

Site summary

The Murray LLS has undertaken a very successful management program in the Jingellic Catchment to protect habitat for the Booroolong Frog and Southern Pygmy Perch. Significant effort to reduce the impacts of exotic willow trees has been consolidated through recent follow-up treatment and agreement from key land owners for ongoing control measures. In addition to this, agreement has been attained from property owners to protect important areas from stock grazing via fencing of riparian zones.

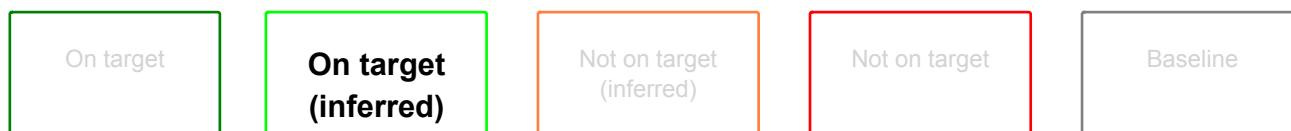
Management site 6: Adjungbilly Creek

LGA: Gundagai; Tumut

Project partners: Central Tablelands Local Land Services; NSW Environmental Trust; Riverina Local Land Services;
Office of Environment and Heritage

Estimated species population size: Occupies 10km of stream

Population status



Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year (not required annually). The species population is inferred to be on target based on threat management being on target.

Investment

Project participant	Cash	In-kind
NSW Environmental Trust	\$50,000	\$0

Management actions

The project actions below (including research and survey actions) are those identified as being required in 2015-16 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Damage to stream margins by stock.	Liaise with landholder(s) with grazing properties adjacent to rivers and tributaries about entering into a voluntary management agreement to maintain or enhance the species and its habitat. Provide incentives for landholder(s) to regulate stock access in riparian areas via fencing a 50m buffer zone from stream banks.	Yes

Site summary

The Riverina LLS has undertaken a very successful management program in the Adjungbilly Catchment to protect habitat for the Booroolong Frog and Macquarie Perch. This was undertaken through a combination of awareness raising and targeted weeding and revegetation in riparian areas that have been fenced off from constant cattle access. The 2015/16 target goals for weed and stock management in the riparian zone exceeded expectation, and given the local interest in the environmental values of the Adjungbilly Catchment, the longer term success of this project is likely.

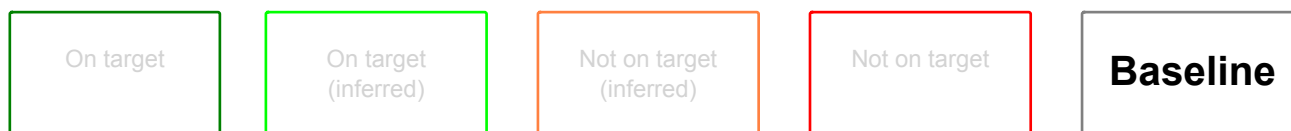
Management site 7: Abercrombie River

LGA: Oberon; Upper Lachlan

Project partners: Central Tablelands Local Land Services; Kanangra-Boyd to Wyangala Link (GER); Office of Environment and Heritage; NSW Environmental Trust

Estimated species population size: >750

Population status



Index	Monitoring result	Confidence in monitoring	Conducted by
Species abundance	baseline index, data to be analysed	Moderate	Central Tablelands LLS; Office of Environment and Heritage

Investment

Project participant	Cash	In-kind
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$0	\$38,176
Central Tablelands Local Land Services	\$0	\$78,880
Kanangra-Boyd to Wyangala Link (GER)	\$13,185	\$0
NSW Environmental Trust	\$28,558	\$0

Management actions

The project actions below (including research and survey actions) are those identified as being required in 2015-16 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Cause damage and erosion to stream margins.	Combination of baiting and aerial shooting.	Yes
Damage to stream margins by stock.	Liaise with landholder(s) with grazing properties adjacent to rivers and tributaries about entering into a voluntary management agreement to maintain or enhance the species and its habitat. Provide incentives for landholder(s) to regulate stock access in riparian areas via fencing a 50m buffer zone from stream banks.	Yes
Weed invasion of streamside habitats, particularly by willows.	Cut and paint seedlings in the riparian zone where cost-effective. Staged removal of large willows, leaving stumps and removing debris to minimise disturbance to stream margins. Revegetate these areas to stabilise stream banks.	Yes

Threat status

This table includes critical threats that were monitored at this site, this financial year.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status	Confidence in monitoring
Cause damage and erosion to stream margins.	Reduce pig activity in streamside habitats.	Baseline	Moderate
Weed invasion of streamside habitats, particularly by willows.	Weeds and the impacts of weeds are controlled in streamside habitats.	Baseline	Moderate

Site summary

Land management agreement signed with private landholder for Abercrombie River link between east and west parcels of Abercrombie National Park. Pig control and monitoring undertaken successfully. Weed mapping, control and riparian rehabilitation undertaken within Abercrombie National Park. Monitoring was undertaken.