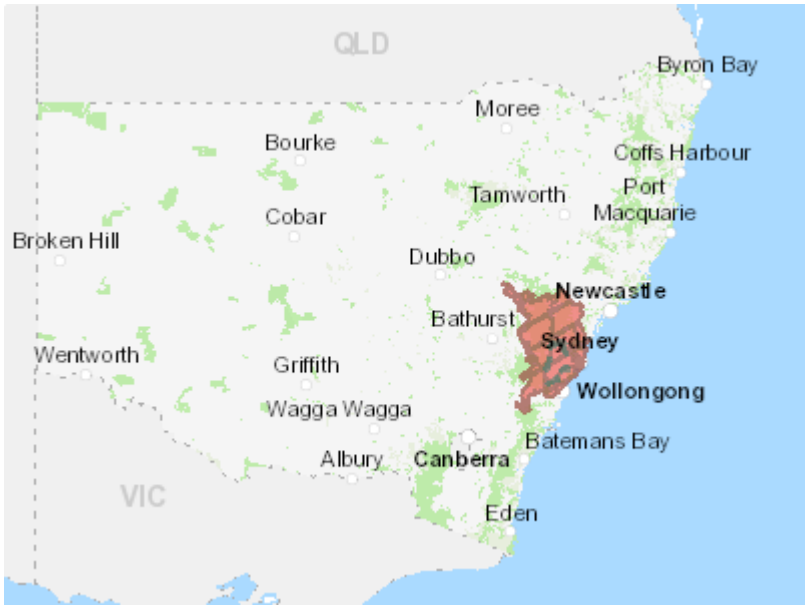
SAVING OUR SPECIES

Help save Shale Sandstone Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion

Saving our Species aims to secure as many threatened species and ecological communities as possible. This conservation strategy aims to secure the ecological community in the long term. The strategy was developed by experts who identified the priority management areas and conservation actions required to manage critical threats to conserve the ecological community.

Saving our Species is based on a cost-effective approach that maximises the number of threatened species and ecological communities conserved through on-ground management action. If you want to contact us please email savingourspecies@environment.nsw.gov.au

Map of Shale Sandstone Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion occurrence and priority management area(s)



Distribution(*) Priority management area

Threats to this species are outlined at: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10755#threats

The actions listed in the management action toolbox guide management at a site, regional or state scale.

Photo: Steven Douglas

Conservation status in NSW:
Critically Endangered Ecological Community

Commonwealth status:
Critically Endangered

Saving our Species management stream:
Ecological community (widespread)

Community profile:
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10755

Saving our Species delivers on the NSW Government's legislative requirements under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.*

*Distribution is mapped as sub-regions where the ecological community is known to occur (BioNet).

Action toolbox

Threat	Action description	Scale
Invasion of introduced deer.	Provide deer hunters and deer farmers with information about the problems caused by introduced populations of feral deer, appropriate fencing for deer farms and laws around the unlawful release of domestic deer and other livestock into the wild.	State, Area, Site
Invasion of introduced deer.	Tag domestic deer on farms so they can be tracked back to farmers if they escape.	State, Area, Site
Invasion of introduced deer.	Monitor for deer, particularly in new areas, and undertake appropriate and humane control where necessary ensuring that any culling program is communicated to land managers.	State, Area, Site
Hydrological change. Altered hydrology, increased nutrients, sedimentation, possible erosion through increased flow, runoff from residential.	Implement a water sensitive design, particularly for new developments, throughout the whole catchment area that benefit the TEC such as the planting of buffer zones to trap nutrients and the design and installation of detention basins that have an ecological value so that hydrology is improved. Encourage Councils and other land managers to plan holistically when installing detention basins.	State
Disturbance from recreational users – unauthorised visitor access; rubbish dumping; landfill, illegal trails; illegal mountain bike tracks; and 4WD.	Reduce disturbance from mountain bike activity through engaging with relevant peak groups and educating the mountain biking community, as well as rehabilitating disturbed areas.	State, Area, Site
Disturbance from recreational users – unauthorised visitor access; rubbish dumping; landfill, illegal trails; illegal mountain bike tracks; and 4WD.	Install interpretative signage in National Parks and Council reserves/parks to educate the community about the TEC and threats caused by recreational users. Recommend using children's artwork for interpretative signs as a deterrent to vandalisation of signs. Can be linked to local school programs for threatened species action.	Site, Area
Disturbance from recreational users – unauthorised visitor access; rubbish dumping; landfill, illegal trails; illegal mountain bike tracks; and 4WD.	To prevent damage and disturbance by visitors, manage access to tracks through the installation of bollards, gates, fencing and/or surveillance cameras at strategic locations and/or the use of deterrent signage.	Site, Area
Invasion and establishment of weeds in disturbed areas including invasive exotic grasses like African love grass, Erharta and Chilean needle grass as well as *Lantana*, privet, African olive, blackberry and bridal creeper and environmental weeds such as Sweet Pittosporum and Blady Grass.	Encourage landholders/managers to engage in early weed identification and intervention, and to implement prevention measures using current best management practices.	Site, Area
Invasion and establishment of weeds in disturbed areas including invasive exotic grasses like African love grass, Erharta and Chilean needle grass as well as *Lantana*, privet, African olive, blackberry and bridal creeper and environmental weeds such as Sweet Pittosporum and Blady Grass.	Undertake weed monitoring and control in TEC remnants following unplanned burning events.	State

Threat	Action description	Scale
Invasion and establishment of weeds in disturbed areas including invasive exotic grasses like African love grass, Erharta and Chilean needle grass as well as *Lantana*, privet, African olive, blackberry and bridal creeper and environmental weeds such as Sweet Pittosporum and Blady Grass.	Control weeds, particularly in areas of intensive invasion (priority weed zones), using the most appropriate methods to suit differing conditions and reduce off-target damage.	Site, Area
Inappropriate fire regime – combination of lack of fire and too frequent fires due to arson and hazard reduction burns.	Liaise with NSW Rural Fire Service and volunteers about the importance of the TEC and advise that it is included in fire management plans and that ecological burns are considered in important remnants rather than hazard reduction burns.	Area, State
Inappropriate fire regime – combination of lack of fire and too frequent fires due to arson and hazard reduction burns.	Undertake and monitor small ecological patch burns in the distinct forms of the TEC (i.e. wet sclerophyll, characteristic and dry variants) to inform fire thresholds required by the TEC across its range. This can be established by creating monitoring plots and surveying these areas systematically before, immediately after and periodically after fire (e.g. every two months or seasonally). Results of fire research to be provided to NSW Rural Fire Service to update the Hazard Reduction Threatened Species list and inform future fire planning within the TEC.	Site, Area
Underscrubbing from mowing/mechanical removal and livestock.	Implement landowner and broader community engagement programs and promote caring for your backyard around the TEC (where and what it is as well as threats impacting on it) including pamphlets, good media-stories, threatened species tours/walks, local landcare programs in reserves and welcome kits for new residents.	Area
Underscrubbing from mowing/mechanical removal and livestock.	Promote sustainable land management practices and the benefits of biodiversity including the development and use of a sustainable farming demonstration site e.g. Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute.	Area
Clearing for residential, industrial and agricultural development resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation.	Provide land managers with information about indigenous plantings in reserves, backyards and road side space i.e. street trees.	Area
Clearing for residential, industrial and agricultural development resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation.	Ensure wild stock seed is collected for all suitable species within the TEC and kept in Council nurseries, Mt Annan plant bank facility and NSW Herbarium for propagation and revegetation programs.	Area, Site
Clearing for residential, industrial and agricultural development resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation.	Develop a guide/program for revegetation that will include information on native historic and endemic vegetation that can be used for replanting.	Area
Clearing for residential, industrial and agricultural development resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation.	Identify key areas to increase linkages throughout the TEC. Prepare revegetation/restoration management plans to improve connectivity in these areas. Encourage/support land managers/ land care groups to conduct regeneration and restoration programs in cleared areas adjacent to remnant TEC vegetation.	Area
Clearing for residential, industrial and agricultural development resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation.	Consult with landholders about participating in conservation agreements (preferably long-term in perpetuity) to protect the TEC on their property.	Area, Site
Current vegetation mapping is considered to be over and under-mapped (depending on the areas). Geographical distribution is poorly understood in the higher sandstone forms of the community.	Conduct targeted surveys of the TEC to interpret the geological, soil, aspect and species composition of each community (Sydney Hinterland Transition Forest, Coastal Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest). Improve the understanding of how the TEC is identified, its boundaries and the characteristic features that separate the communities.	Site, Area

Monitoring actions

Regular monitoring of the effectiveness of management and trends in local populations and ecological communities at a site scale is an important component of all strategies. The toolbox and any site-based management will be adapted, added or removed over time in response to monitoring results.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Guidelines for Conservation Projects.

Find out more about our program

Visit http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies