

# Conservation Action Plan

## Black-tailed antechinus (*Antechinus arktos*)

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of s.78C of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (Reg.) in relation to an Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) as declared under s.153G of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

### Site details

AIS site	AIS-ES-164, AIS-ES-170
Site location	An area of 66 hectares in Numinbah Nature Reserve An area of 4978 hectares in Border Ranges National Park An area of 738 hectares in Limpinwood Nature Reserve
NPWS contact	Team Leader Conservation, North Coast Branch

### Environmental values

This table sets out the environmental values for which the land was listed as an AIS (Reg. 78C(3)(a)).

Identified value(s)	Value description
Important habitat for black-tailed antechinus	The endangered black-tailed antechinus is a small, nocturnal, insectivorous marsupial. They are relatively large-bodied (46-120 grams) and have greyish-brown coloured fur with orange colour fur on its rump, long black tail and shaggy appearance. Black-tailed antechinus occur in high altitude, high rainfall habitats, on the national park estate, which is critical for the conservation of the species. The species is found in cool subtropical cloud forest, rainforest areas with complex notophyll vine forest, and simple microphyll fern forest on rocky substrate that features a low canopy and very dense vines.

## Key risks to environmental values

This table sets out the key risks to the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(b)).

Key risk(s)	Description
Feral predators	Predation of the black-tailed antechinus by feral cats.
Anthropogenic climate change	<p>Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the frequency and severity of drought conditions or increases the risk of severe storm events and alters the habitat structure, composition and resource availability may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of the black-tailed antechinus at the sites.</p> <p>This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size of the species at the sites.</p>

## Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. Control, abate or mitigate the key risks and
2. maintain, restore and remediate the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(c)).

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Feral predators	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To the extent practicable, undertake opportunistic feral cat control (shooting, trapping or other approved methods) to reduce the density of cats to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the black-tailed antechinus and maintain the density at or below that level.</li></ul>
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If required, establish ex-situ population for reintroduction or translocation into suitable habitat at the sites.</li></ul>

## Other land management activities

Within the declared land there are existing assets and infrastructure of NPWS and other external service providers, including public utilities.

Maintenance operations (including inspection, emergency works and routine and standard maintenance) that are exempt development in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and which are performed on and around existing assets and infrastructure, are authorised under this conservation action plan (CAP) provided such operations are taken in a manner that aims to minimise the risk to the declared environmental values of the land and with any other required consents or approvals.

All maintenance operations on the declared land are to be undertaken in accordance with this CAP.

## Measuring and reporting

This table sets out the requirements for measuring and reporting on health and condition (Reg. 78C(3)(d)).

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the black-tailed antechinus population	Area of occupancy	Design and implement an assessment every 2 years, to calculate the area of occupancy and determine distribution of Black-tailed antechinus at the sites.

A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au). The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land and its overall trajectory.

## Evaluation of conservation action plans

This CAP will be amended or replaced as new information becomes available that helps improve our management of the identified assets (Reg. 78H).

The Secretary must appoint a scientist, or a panel of scientists, to conduct a review, as soon as possible after the period of five years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

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Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment,  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124  
Phone: 1300 361 967; email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au); [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)  
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