

# Conservation Action Plan

## *Baeckea kandos*

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-104
Site location	An area of 823 hectares in Wollemi National Park
NPWS contact	Manager, Mudgee Area, Blue Mountains 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 <i>Baeckea kandos</i>	<i>Baeckea kandos</i> is a small, endangered shrub to two metres high with white flowers. It is restricted to Wollemi National Park and occurs in heathland on skeletal, infertile sandstone-derived soils, normally in association with pagodas.

## 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
Inappropriate fire regimes	<p>Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity that limits germination or kills adult plants may lead to a decline in the <i>Baeckea kandos</i> population at the site.</p> <p>This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size of this species.</p>
Weeds	<p>Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g. <i>Cineraria lyrata</i>) to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is impaired.</p>
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	<p>Infection by <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> resulting in mortality of individual plants.</p> <p>This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size of <i>Baeckea kandos</i> at the site.</p>
Disturbance	<p>Authorised infrastructure maintenance activities (e.g. road and trail maintenance) and visitor use that leads to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals at the site.</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)).

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Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the <i>Baeckea kandos</i> within 12 months of adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas</li> <li>- implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas</li> <li>- integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implement fire management consistent with the guidance.</li> </ul>
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on <i>Baeckea kandos</i>, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.</li> </ul>
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms.	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement hygiene protocols as outlined in the DPIE Hygiene Guidelines (as published April 2020), as varied by any written advice from the Secretary for the purposes of this declared area.</li> <li>• Develop a hygiene management plan, including emergency response procedures in the event of an outbreak or evidence of serious impact of pathogenic <i>Phytophthora cinnamona</i>, within 12 months of the adoption of this plan, and update as required.</li> <li>• Implement the hygiene management plan.</li> </ul>
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether infrastructure maintenance or visitor use is having an adverse impact on the <i>Baeckea kandos</i>. If adverse impacts are observed, implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- upgrade/realignment of trails to avoid known plants</li> <li>- installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing and herbicide use near sites</li> <li>- installation of barriers or other suitable protective structures around plants to minimise impacts from authorised and unauthorised visitor use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop and implement appropriate guidance for staff, utility managers and contractors about appropriate maintenance practices that minimise impacts to <i>Baeckea kandos</i>.</li> </ul>
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain ex-situ living collection and seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population.</li> <li>• If required, augment the existing population with ex-situ material.</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 <i>Baeckea kandos</i> population	Population estimate	Design, and implement every three to five years, monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of mature plants in the <i>Baeckea kandos</i> population.

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 asset (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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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
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Environment and Heritage Group, 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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