

Conservation Action Plan

Gould's petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*)

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-E0-071
Site location	An area of 87 hectares in Montague Island Nature Reserve
NPWS contact	Ranger, Eurobodalla Area, South 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 Gould's petrel	<p>Gould's petrel is a vulnerable bird with habitat on national park estate supporting the most important population for this species. They have a body length of 30 centimetres and wingspan of 75 centimetres with a distinctive "M" wing pattern.</p> <p>Gould's petrels typically nest in clumped groups on steep habitat and build their nests among rock crevices. Montague Island, however, supports both isolated and clumped nesting as well as nests formed in dense blue tussock grass, <i>Poa poiformis</i>, demonstrating a unique nest type for this species not found at other nest sites. This land contains breeding sites crucial to the conservation of the species and, along with four other small islands near Port Stephens in NSW, are the only breeding sites in the world.</p>

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	Inappropriate fire frequency that alters vegetation composition and structure and results in a reduction in suitable habitat or mortality of individuals may affect the persistence of Gould's petrel at the site.
Feral predators	Predation of Gould's petrel by black rats and cats.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g. Kikuyu grass) to the extent that area of suitable nesting habitat is reduced may lead to a decline in the Gould's petrel population at the site.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes in weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the risk of severe storm events and fire, causing mortality of individuals and changes to habitat structure, composition and resource availability, may exceed the species adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Gould's petrels at the site.
Disturbance	Visitor use that causes damage and degradation of nesting habitat including artificial nesting boxes, and disruption of natural breeding and nesting behaviours.

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
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of Gould's Petrel within 12 months of the adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements. Implement fire management consistent with the guidance. If required, implement supplementary nest cover at known nest sites after fire.
Feral predators	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement appropriate island biosecurity measures, including an emergency response plan to address an incursion of feral predators or herbivores, within 12 months of adoption of this plan.
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on the Gould's petrel, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control. Develop and implement appropriate island biosecurity measures within 12 months of adoption of this plan, to reduce the risk of weed importation and spread.
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following severe weather events, assess impacts on the Gould's petrel and its habitat. If impacts are observed, implement supplementary habitat or other response measures as required.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and service artificial nest boxes prior to the breeding season to ensure boxes are in good condition for nesting. If required, install more artificial nest boxes.

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 Gould's petrel population	Population count	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to generate a count of the number of adults in the Gould's petrel population.
	Population estimate	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to calculate the number and distribution of Gould's petrel nest sites.
	Reproductive success / recruitment	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to assess reproductive success of Gould's petrel.

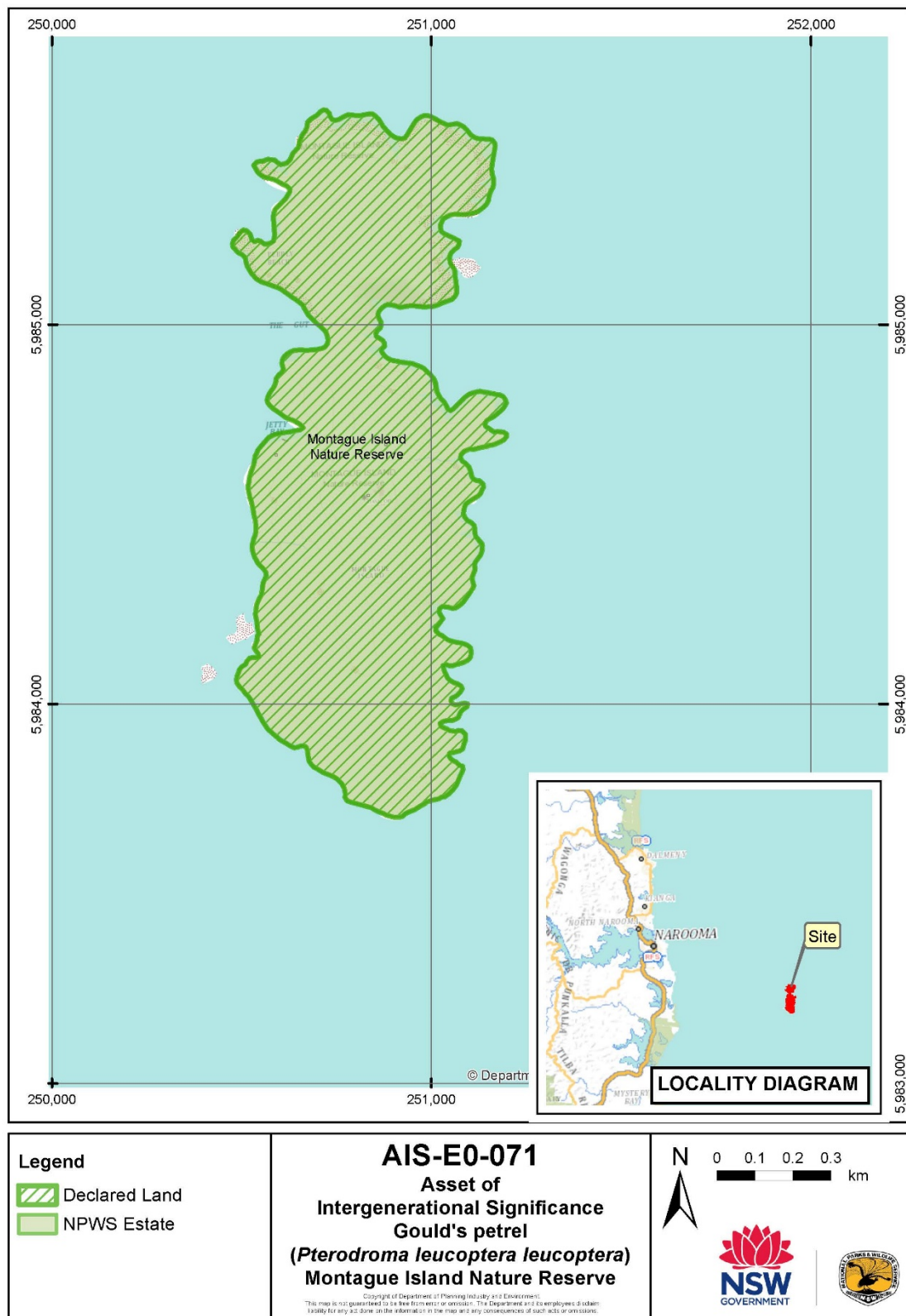
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land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