

# Conservation Action Plan

## Smoky mouse (*Pseudomys fumeus*)

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-E0-159
Site location	An area of 2041 hectares in South East Forest National Park
NPWS contact	Team Leader Conservation, 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 smoky mouse	Smoky mouse is a critically endangered mammal similar in size to a small rat, with its body measuring approximately 90 millimetres and its tail 140 millimetres long. Their fur is pale grey to blue grey, with dark rings around their eyes and a grey to white underbelly. They are found in pairs or small communal groups. The smoky mouse prefers heath habitat in sclerophyll forest, heathland and open forest. They occur on ridge tops and slopes eating seeds, fruits, fungi and some invertebrates throughout the seasons. This site is found in the south-east area of NSW in the South East Forest National Park.

## 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 may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat and affect the persistence of the smoky mouse at the site.
Feral predators	Predation of the smoky mouse by feral cats and foxes.
Feral herbivores	Degradation of smoky mouse habitat by introduced herbivores, such as deer, through browsing, grazing and trampling.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	Occurrence of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> infection in smoky mouse habitat that changes the structure, composition and condition of vegetation communities may affect the persistence of the species at the site.

## 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"> <li>• Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the smoky mouse within 12 months of the 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>
Feral predators	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the extent practicable, reduce the density of foxes to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the smoky mouse and maintain the density at or below that level by baiting, trapping and shooting.</li> <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 smoky mouse and maintain the density at or below that level.</li> </ul>
Feral herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral herbivores, such as deer, to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the smoky mouse, and maintain densities at or below that level, by trapping, baiting and shooting.</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) or as varied by any written advice from the Secretary or the purposes of this declared area.</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 undertaken 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 smoky mouse population	Population estimate	Design, and implement every three years, monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of individuals in the population.

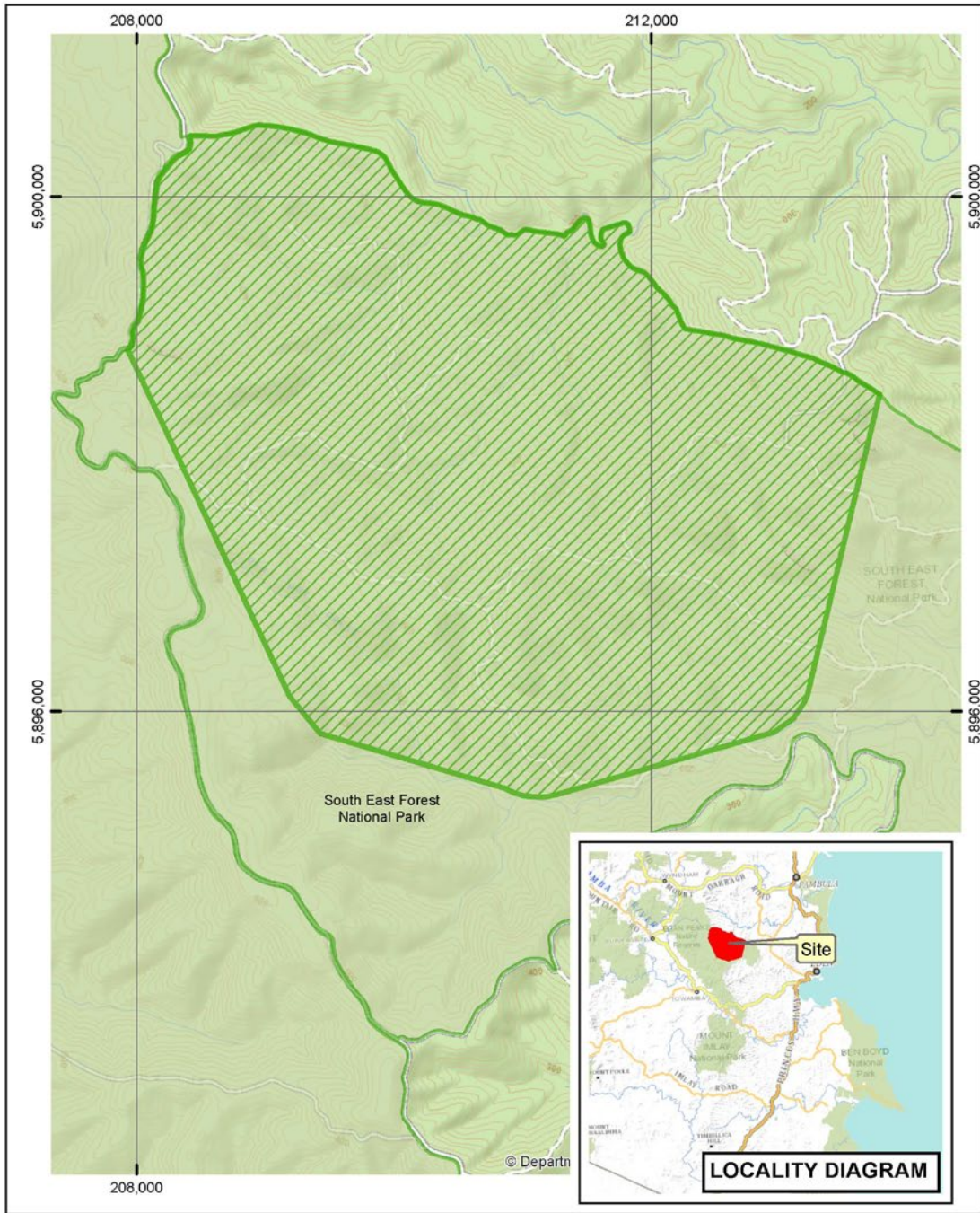
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au). The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition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

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

**AIS-E0-159**  
Asset of  
Intergenerational Significance  
**Smoky mouse**  
(*Pseudomys fumeus*)  
South East Forest National Park

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N 0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 km

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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Co-ordinator General Environment and Heritage
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