



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Northern Blue Box

2020-2021 annual report card

Overall status*



Populations at all sites are known to be on track.



Threat management is known to be on track at all sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Threat management is known to be off track at one or more sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Populations at one or more sites are known to be off track.

* For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)

Summary

Management sites	Grose Creek; Hillgrove Village; Long Point Road
Action implementation	4 (of 4) management actions were fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$14,540 (\$8,275 cash; \$6,265 in-kind)
Partners	Environment, Energy and Science



Scientific name:
Eucalyptus magnificata

NSW status:
Endangered

Commonwealth status:
Not listed

Management stream:
Site-managed species





Photo: Lachlan Copeland

Priority management site: Grose Creek

Local government area:
Armidale Regional

Partners:
Environment, Energy and
Science

Population outcome

-  On track
-  **On track (inferred)**
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - dependent on other component.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Environment, Energy and Science	\$4,475	\$700

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Clearing and fragmentation of grassy open forest and woodland for agriculture and development.	Complete weeding and care for plantings installed in 2019–20, including replacing unsuccessful plantings and supplementing existing plantings as required.	Yes
Dieback and insect attack.	Undertake annual planting and maintenance within stock exclusion zone to improve habitat and attract insectivorous bird species to minimise dieback.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Grazing by domestic stock.	Nil impact of grazing within exclusion zone.	Not assessed
Dieback and insect attack.	Conduct dieback observations, with growth to be greater than dieback.	On track
Clearing and fragmentation of grassy open forest and woodland for agriculture and development.	Conduct baseline bird surveys.	On track

Site summary

The site is in fair condition. Recent plantings, while displaying some dieback after recent early frosts and dry soil conditions, are regenerating but with an approximate 40% attrition rate. The site has significant exotic grass weeds, particularly on the lower banks of Grose Creek. Blackberry continues to present challenges across the site, with initial young canes growing throughout and some previously treated large thickets beginning to regenerate. There is healthy regeneration amongst the site of ground covers such as *Leucochrysum*, *Wahlenbergia* and *Chrysocephalum* and native grasses, including *Themeda*, *Poa* and *Sporobolus*, which contribute to the site regeneration and health. The northern blue box population is in reasonable condition; however, it has sustained sparse insect defoliation in mature trees.





Baseline autumn bird surveys were undertaken to assist with long term monitoring of the benefits of bush regeneration to encourage increased bird diversity and improved habitat quality. The surveys consisted of 2 separate morning and afternoon surveys, which involved both a 20-minute 400 m x 50 m transect (outside enclosure) and a 10-minute area search within (enclosure).

Priority management site: Hillgrove Village

Local government area:
Armidale Regional

Partners:
Environment, Energy and
Science

Population outcome

-  On track
-  **On track (inferred)**
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - dependent on other component.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Environment, Energy and Science	\$3,800	\$3,500

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Dieback and insect attack.	Complete weeding and care for plantings installed in 2019–20, including replacing unsuccessful plantings and supplementing existing plantings as required.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Dieback and insect attack.	Conduct dieback observations, with growth to be greater than dieback.	On track
Clearing and fragmentation of grassy open forest and woodland for agriculture and development.	Conduct bird surveys to collect baseline data.	On track
Grazing by domestic stock.	Grazing regime is managed so site incurs nil or low-level impacts.	On track

Site summary

The Hillgrove site, while in good overall condition, continues to present weed challenges, particularly a large infestation of *Bidens pilosa*, exotic pasture grasses and a variety of common thistles. The northern blue box population is in excellent condition, with none of the defoliation seen at the Grose Creek site. Natural regeneration was improving, with a ground cover of *Microlaena stipoides*, native *Sporobolus* and scattered *Austrodanthonia* sp. dominant over exotics in increasing patches. The plantings are in excellent health, with ~85% survival rate.





Baseline autumn bird surveys were undertaken to assist with long term monitoring of the benefits of bush regeneration to encourage increased bird diversity and improved habitat quality. The surveys consisted of 2 separate morning and afternoon surveys, which involved both a 20-minute 400 m x 50 m transect (outside enclosure) and a 10-minute area search within (enclosure).

Priority management site: Long Point Road

Local government area:
Armidale Regional

Partners:
Environment, Energy and
Science

Population outcome

-  **On track**
-  On track (inferred)
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - Monitoring not required this financial year.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Environment, Energy and Science	\$0	\$2,065

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Clearing and fragmentation of grassy open forest and woodland for agriculture and development.	Liaise with Local Land Services and review management actions for this Travelling Stock Reserve.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Dieback and insect attack.	Less than 10% trees show dieback and damage from insect attack.	On track
Clearing and fragmentation of grassy open forest and woodland for agriculture and development.	Disturbance is managed so clearing and fragmentation threat to species incurs nil or low-level impacts on resident bird abundance, an indicator of habitat condition.	On track

Site summary

This site is in much better condition than the other 2 management sites. Baseline autumn bird surveys were undertaken, and this site provides a good comparison against the other 2 sites, which are partially cleared and heavily grazed. Additional bird surveys are planned for spring.

It is recommended to ensure that the land manager and surrounding landholders are aware of the species' location and requirements with respect to minimising disturbance. Investigations are underway into the potential benefits of roadside signage where appropriate. The next population monitoring is planned for the 2022–23 financial year.

Saving our Species 2020-2021 annual report card for Northern Blue Box (*Eucalyptus magnificata*). For more information refer to the specific strategy in the Saving our Species program.