

Saving our Species 2017-2018 annual report card

Philip Island Wheat Grass

Species attributes

Scientific name	<i>Elymus multiflorus subsp. kingianus</i>
NSW status	Critically Endangered
Commonwealth status	Critically Endangered
Management stream	Site-managed species



Photographer: Craig Stehn

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	Northern Hills
Action implementation	5 of 5 management actions were fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$146,470 (\$43,270 cash; \$103,200 in-kind)
Partners	Lord Howe Island Board; Office of Environment and Heritage

Management site 1: Northern Hills

Local Government Area	Lord Howe Island (Unincorporated)
Estimated species population size	75
Partners	Lord Howe Island Board; Office of Environment and Heritage

Population status

On track	On track (inferred)	Not on track (inferred)	Not on track	Not determined
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Monitoring

Long term target	By 2032, maintain a population (Northern Hills and Translocation site) of <i>Elymus multiflorus subsp. kingianus</i> consisting of at least 100 individuals (three-year rolling average) across a mix of age classes (N.B. includes contributions from both threat management and translocation actions).
Annual target	Approximately 60 individuals averaged over the two-year period
Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Monitoring result	Monitoring completed at the Old Settlement and Dawson's Point locations. A population census across these locations found 75 <i>Elymus multiflorus subsp. kingianus</i> individuals.
Confidence in monitoring	High
Conducted by	Lord Howe Island Board

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Lord Howe Island Board	\$0	\$100,000
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$43,270	\$3,200

Management actions

The following actions (including research and survey actions) are those identified as being required in financial year 2017-2018 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Exotic weeds including <i>Briza minor</i> (Shivery Grass), <i>Bromus diandrus</i> (Great Brome), <i>Bromus catharticus</i> (Prairie Grass), <i>Conyza bonariensis</i> , <i>Ipomoea cairica</i> , <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> , <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (Common Sowthistle) and <i>Sporobolus africanus</i> (Parramatta grass).	Physical removal and spot spraying of weed species where impacting on target species (localised control approximately 5 ha annually).	Yes
Exotic weeds including <i>Briza minor</i> (Shivery Grass), <i>Bromus diandrus</i> (Great Brome), <i>Bromus catharticus</i> (Prairie Grass), <i>Conyza bonariensis</i> , <i>Ipomoea cairica</i> , <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> , <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (Common Sowthistle) and <i>Sporobolus africanus</i> (Parramatta grass).	Implement Weeds Strategy actions within the Malabar landscape unit (25.5 ha target).	Yes
Predation and browsing by Black Rats.	Continue the implementation of the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project. Office of Environment and Heritage to provide support to the Lord Howe Island Board to help implement the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project when appropriate.	Yes
Risk of extinction due to small population size.	Multiple translocation activities.	Yes
Risk of extinction due to small population size.	200 seed collected per year.	Yes

Threat status

The following critical threats were monitored at this site during financial year 2017-2018.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status	Confidence in monitoring
Exotic weeds including <i>Briza minor</i> (Shivery Grass), <i>Bromus diandrus</i> (Great Brome), <i>Bromus catharticus</i> (Prairie Grass), <i>Conyza bonariensis</i> , <i>Ipomoea cairica</i> , <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> , <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (Common Sowthistle) and <i>Sporobolus africanus</i> (Parramatta grass).	10% reduction in weed cover from previous survey.	Baseline	High
Exotic weeds including <i>Briza minor</i> (Shivery Grass), <i>Bromus diandrus</i> (Great Brome), <i>Bromus catharticus</i> (Prairie Grass), <i>Conyza bonariensis</i> , <i>Ipomoea cairica</i> , <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> , <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (Common Sowthistle) and <i>Sporobolus africanus</i> (Parramatta grass).	15% reduction in weeds removed (1000's per/ha - compared to previous year), for targeted Lord Howe Island Weed Blocks within the <i>Saving our Species</i> site.	On track	High
Predation and browsing by Black Rats.	Office of Environment and Heritage to provide support to the Lord Howe Island Board to help implement the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project when appropriate.	On track	High

Site summary

Population monitoring has identified an additional 44 plants during 2017-18 bringing the total population size to 75. Exotic grasses and herbs and other target weeds have been hand removed from Phillip Island Wheat Grass sites and potential translocation sites / species habitat. Bridal Creeper numbers have increased at some locations in the Northern Hills although overall weed numbers continue to decline. Weed search and control has been undertaken across a total of 43.76 ha during 2017-18. A translocation plan has been finalised for this species and translocation actions are planned to be implemented during 2018-19.