



**SAVING OUR SPECIES**

**Subtropical Coastal Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast Bioregion**

**2022-2023 annual report card**

**Summary**

<b>Management sites</b>	Arrawarra; Fishery Creek; Woolgoolga Lake
<b>Action implementation</b>	9 (of 9) management actions were fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
<b>Total expenditure</b>	\$30,303 (\$18,446 cash; \$11,857 in-kind)
<b>Partners</b>	Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council; Coffs Harbour City Council; Environment and Heritage Group; North Coast Local Land Services; North Coast Regional Landcare; OzFish Unlimited



**Name:**  
*Subtropical Coastal Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast Bioregion*

**NSW status:**  
Endangered Ecological Community

**Commonwealth status:**  
Not listed

**Management stream:**  
Ecological community (widespread)

Photo: John Turbill

# Priority management site: Arrawarra

**Local government area:**  
Not specified

**Partners:**  
Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council; Environment and Heritage Group; North Coast Local Land Services; North Coast Regional Landcare

## Ecological community outcome

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

## Monitoring

*Ecological community viability monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.*

<b>Monitoring metric</b>	Habitat condition
<b>Annual target</b>	Re-sample baseline monitoring plots.
<b>Long term target</b>	At the end of year 5 weeds will either be eradicated or reduced in abundance and extent to less than 5%.
<b>Monitoring result</b>	Vegetation Integrity Score (BAM calculator): 89.8
<b>Scientific rigour of monitoring method</b>	High
<b>Conducted by</b>	North Coast Local Land Services; North Coast Regional Landcare

## Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council	\$0	\$6,500
Environment and Heritage Group	\$8,825	\$0
North Coast Local Land Services	\$0	\$2,454

## Management actions

*The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2022-2023 to maximise the viability of the ecological community.*

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Altered fire regimes: Low frequency fire can cause canopy closure, which shades out ground layer flora communities, displaces fauna habitat and encourages Bell Miner. Too frequent fire can simplify ground layer vegetation through loss of flora species	Increase awareness of the values of the site where the opportunity arises.	Yes
Clearing from rural, agricultural and urban development leading to edge effect, degradation and further fragmentation.	Increase awareness of the values of the site where the opportunity arises.	Yes

Human disturbance: rubbish dumping, motorbikes, 4WDs, firewood collection, removal of woody debris, under scrubbing causing degradation to the TEC.	Increase awareness of the values of the site where the opportunity arises.	Yes
Invasion and establishment of transformer weed species (particularly camphor laurel, groundsel, exotic vines and scramblers, lantana and exotic perennial grasses) changing community structure and floristic composition and/or altering soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.	Bush regeneration within the threatened ecological community.	Yes
Invasion and establishment of transformer weed species (particularly camphor laurel, groundsel, exotic vines and scramblers, lantana and exotic perennial grasses) changing community structure and floristic composition and/or altering soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.	Increase awareness of the values of the site where the opportunity arises.	Yes

## Threat outcome

*Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.*

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Invasion and establishment of transformer weed species (particularly camphor laurel, groundsel, exotic vines and scramblers, lantana and exotic perennial grasses) changing community structure and floristic composition and/or altering soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.	Annual sampling of weed plots.	On track
Human disturbance: rubbish dumping, motorbikes, 4WDs, firewood collection, removal of woody debris, under scrubbing causing degradation to the TEC.	Maintain or reduce level of threats.	On track
Clearing from rural, agricultural and urban development leading to edge effect, degradation and further fragmentation.	Maintain or reduce level of threats.	On track
Altered fire regimes: Low frequency fire can cause canopy closure, which shades out ground layer flora communities, displaces fauna habitat and encourages Bell Miner. Too frequent fire can simplify ground layer vegetation through loss of flora species	Maintain or reduce level of threats.	On track

## Site summary

This site is part of a grant project administered by the NSW Environmental Trust and led by North Coast Local Land Services.

Weed growth has been substantial over this large site due to a good season of growth, but weed treatment areas have achieved low maintenance state as the weeds can be efficiently treated as they are juvenile, and the site is readily accessible and easy to traverse.

New high-threat weeds have been identified and targeted in the course of this project (for example, *Dioscorea bulbifera*).

Regular cultural fire burning be implemented in patches to protect cultural assets and reduce weed cover (integrate fire into weed control).

The landholder has successfully obtained a multi-year grant to maintain and enhance previous bush regeneration works. The site has great access and is proximal to the landholder's bush regeneration depot. The site contains significant cultural values and is embedded in the landholder's works program.

# Priority management site: Fishery Creek

<p><b>Local government area:</b> Ballina</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Environment and Heritage Group; OzFish Unlimited</p>	<p><b>Ecological community outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green; font-size: 20px; margin-right: 10px;">●</span> <b>On track</b></li> <li><span style="color: lightgreen; font-size: 20px; margin-right: 10px;">●</span> On track (inferred)</li> <li><span style="color: orange; font-size: 20px; margin-right: 10px;">●</span> Not on track (inferred)</li> <li><span style="color: red; font-size: 20px; margin-right: 10px;">●</span> Not on track</li> </ul>
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## Monitoring

*Ecological community viability monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.*

<b>Monitoring metric</b>	Habitat condition
<b>Annual target</b>	Undertake repeat sampling assessments. The overall health score is expected to increase from year 1 baseline monitoring.
<b>Long term target</b>	To be determined.
<b>Monitoring result</b>	There are 5 primary locations in the Fisheries Creek area. The overall Fisheries Creek saltmarsh site's health score (using the wetland assessment technique developed by WetlandCare Australia) has increased from 68% health to 94% health since the beginning of the project.
<b>Scientific rigour of monitoring method</b>	Low
<b>Conducted by</b>	OzFish Unlimited

## Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Environment and Heritage Group	\$9,181	\$0
OzFish Unlimited	\$0	\$369

## Management actions

*The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2022-2023 to maximise the viability of the ecological community.*

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Human disturbance: rubbish dumping, motorbikes, 4WDs, firewood collection, removal of woody debris, under scrubbing causing degradation to the TEC.	Undertake community clean up events.	Yes
Invasion and establishment of transformer weed species (particularly camphor laurel, groundsel, exotic vines and scramblers, lantana and exotic perennial grasses) changing community structure and floristic composition and/or altering soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.	Weed removal by contractor.	Yes

## Threat outcome

*Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.*

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Human disturbance: rubbish dumping, motorbikes, 4WDs, firewood collection, removal of woody debris, under scrubbing causing degradation to the TEC.	Monitor the site for litter and dumping. Record a reduction in litter of at least 50%	On track
Invasion and establishment of transformer weed species (particularly camphor laurel, groundsel, exotic vines and scramblers, lantana and exotic perennial grasses) changing community structure and floristic composition and/or altering soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.	Photopoint monitoring of weed removal.	On track

## Site summary

This site is part of a grant project administered by NSW Environmental Trust and led by OzFish Unlimited.





All planned activities were completed. There are 5 primary locations in the Fisheries Creek area. Some of the sites are used by campers and fishers, one location is next to a busy road and another location is very secluded. Rubbish is illegally dumped periodically, particularly near the road. In the last survey, 6 bags of rubbish and 2 plastic chairs were removed from the saltmarsh. Extensive weeding of 2 of the locations has been conducted, and the site has been well restored. Ozfish volunteers have been involved in all the sampling. There is some encroachment of mangrove propagules, likely due to flood waters; however, these are unlikely to survive long term. The locations were badly infested with asparagus fern; however, this has been treated by our contractor and is now under control.

# Priority management site: Woolgoolga Lake

**Local government area:**  
Coffs Harbour

**Partners:**  
Coffs Harbour City Council;  
Environment and Heritage  
Group

## Ecological community outcome

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

The viability of the ecological community is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The trend in viability is unknown at this time.

## Monitoring

*Ecological community viability monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.*

Ecological community monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - \*\*\*Needs a reason\*\*\*

## Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Coffs Harbour City Council	\$0	\$2,535
Environment and Heritage Group	\$440	\$0

## Management actions

*The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2022-2023 to maximise the viability of the ecological community.*

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Clearing from rural, agricultural and urban development leading to edge effect, degradation and further fragmentation.	Plant 224 tubestock of native species indicative of the threatened ecological community.	Yes
Invasion and establishment of transformer weed species (particularly camphor laurel, groundsel, exotic vines and scramblers, lantana and exotic perennial grasses) changing community structure and floristic composition and/or altering soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.	Reduce weed infestation by 30% within the site. Weed control methods include spot spray, cut and paste with frog friendly glyphosate and manually.	Yes

## Threat outcome

*Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.*

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Clearing from rural, agricultural and urban development leading to edge effect, degradation and further fragmentation.	Increase of native canopy cover by 30%.	Not assessed

Invasion and establishment of transformer weed species (particularly camphor laurel, groundsel, exotic vines and scramblers, lantana and exotic perennial grasses) changing community structure and floristic composition and/or altering soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.

Decrease weed species cover by 30%.

Not assessed

## Site summary

This site is part of a grant project administered by the NSW Environmental Trust and led by Coffs Harbour City Council.