



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Mountain Xylosma

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	Southern Mountains
Action implementation	3 (of 3) management actions were fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$134,230 (\$31,230 cash; \$103,000 in-kind)
Partners	Environment, Energy and Science; Lord Howe Island Board



Scientific name:
Xylosma parvifolia

NSW status:
Endangered

Commonwealth status:
Endangered

Management stream:
Site-managed species

Photo: Craig Stehn

Priority management site: Southern Mountains


Local government area:

Lord Howe Island -
Unincorporated Area

Partners:

Environment, Energy and
Science; Lord Howe Island
Board

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.

Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Annual target	Maintain an average of 40 individuals (+/- 10) across a mix of age classes within the permanent monitoring plots.
Long term target	By 2032, to maintain a stable population of approximately 300 individuals across a mix of age classes within the Southern Mountains site.
Monitoring result	Eleven <i>Xylosma parvifolia</i> were recorded in the 8 monitoring plots that were able to be resurveyed in April 2021. Previous surveys of these same plots in 2018 recorded 13 plants.
Scientific rigour of monitoring method	Moderate
Conducted by	Environment, Energy and Science

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Environment, Energy and Science	\$31,230	\$3,000
Lord Howe Island Board	\$0	\$100,000

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?
Predation and browsing by black rats.	Environment, Energy and Science 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.	Collect seed opportunistically when undertaking weed control and species surveys.	Yes
Weed invasion, particularly by crofton weed, asparagus fern, cherry guava and tiger lily.	Undertake 9 ha of hand weed control within the Lidgbird remote landscape unit. Undertake aerial weed monitoring and control within the Lidgbird remote landscape unit.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Weed invasion, particularly by crofton weed, asparagus fern, cherry guava and tiger lily.	Number of weeds controlled per hectare searched reduced by 10% from 2019—20 levels.	On track
Predation and browsing by black rats.	Environment, Energy and Science to provide support to the Lord Howe Island Board to help implement the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project when appropriate.	On track
Risk of extinction due to small population size.	Document all seed collections undertaken for the species.	On track

Site summary

Due to land slips several monitoring plots were not able to be reached in 2020—21. As a result the monitoring this year only compares a subset of sites that were able to be accessed this year. Eleven *Xylosma parvifolia* were recorded in the 8 monitoring plots that were able to be resurveyed in April 2021. Previous surveys of these same plots in 2018 recorded 13 plants. It is expected plants still persist within the plots unable to be accessed, meaning the annual monitoring target is reached.

In 2020—21, a total of 3105 hours of search effort across 229 ha within the Lidgbird remote, Lidgbird southwest and Gower landscape units resulted in the control of 14450 target weeds. Out of the 14,450 weeds controlled only 135 were recorded as mature (0.01% of all weeds controlled). The proportion of all weeds that are mature has decreased compared to 2019—20. In 2019—20 a total of 43 priority weeds were controlled per hectare searched, while in 2020—21 a total of 63 weeds were controlled per hectare. This increase consists mostly of immature weeds and may be due to a reduction in rodent browsing of seedlings since the implementation of the rodent eradication program. The dominant weeds in the areas controlled were cherry guava (*Psidium cattleianum* var. *cattleianum*) and ground asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus*).

The Lord Howe Island rodent eradication baiting phase was completed in late 2019. Three hundred and thirty permanent monitoring devices have now been established to monitor for signs of rodents across key locations on LHI. Between October 2019 and April 2021 there were nil detections of rodents on LHI giving a high level of confidence that the original rodent eradication project resulted in the eradication of rodents from LHI. Recent detections in April and May 2021 are likely to be the result of a new incursion onto the island and are being treated as a biosecurity issue with an incursion response plan currently being implemented.

Saving our Species 2020-2021 annual report card for Mountain Xylosma (*Xylosma parvifolia*). For more information refer to the specific strategy in the Saving our Species program.