



Annual Reserve Report

Brown Mountain Reserve 2014-15



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Introduction

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) protects important natural areas as permanent reserves and aims to demonstrate excellence in reserve management for biodiversity conservation. To achieve this aim, the TLC has adopted an adaptive management framework – the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. The framework comprises 5 key steps – planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting, review/adaptation and communication.

Brown Mountain Reserve was acquired by the TLC in 2007 and protects 86 hectares of wet eucalypt forest on the slopes of Mount Field in southern Tasmania. The Reserve is surrounded by state forest and private land managed for forestry. The management of the Reserve is guided by the Brown Mountain Reserve Management Plan. The plan is implemented by TLC staff through an Annual Work Plan and Monitoring Plan. Details of ecological monitoring methods can be found in TLC’s Ecological Monitoring Procedures Manual. [

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2014-15 and is divided into three sections:

1. Reserve Scorecard – a table summarising the results of management effectiveness and ecological monitoring to date;
2. Management Effectiveness Summary – providing details of the implementation of key management strategies and making recommendations for plan improvement;
3. Ecological Monitoring Summary – providing details of the status of conservation targets and trends of key ecological indicators

The recommendations made in this report are used to adapt and improve management of the Reserve, update the management plan, and revise work and monitoring plans for the coming year. Key findings of this report are communicated to TLC Board, supporters and other stakeholders.

Brown Mountain Reserve Scorecard

Monitoring			
Target	Indicator	Status 2014-15	Trend
Wet eucalypt forest	Floristic diversity		Baseline data collection is scheduled for 2016
	Structural complexity		
	Canopy recruitment		
	Vertebrate fauna diversity		
Community connection to landscape	# volunteer days on the Reserve	1	Increase
Management Effectiveness			
Strategy	Indicator	Status	Trend
Community engagement	# of volunteer activities at the Reserve	1	Flat
	# research activities on the Reserve	0	Flat

Monitoring Summary

Wet eucalypt forest

The vegetation of Brown Mountain Reserve is wet eucalypt forest dominated by mature *Eucalyptus regnans* – the world’s tallest flowering plant. The understorey is dominated by broadleaved shrubs and rainforest species such myrtle, sassafras and tree ferns. The forest is regenerating following selective logging in the 1980s. Lyrebirds have recently been observed and pose a potential threat to the Reserve’s values.

Goals

- Maintain the floristic diversity of vegetation within 25% of baseline (ongoing)
- Maintain the structural complexity of vegetation within 25% of baseline (ongoing)
- Maintain the extent of wet forest (ongoing)
- Maintain vertebrate fauna diversity (ongoing)



Tall eucalypt forest

Ecological indicator	Current status	Trend
Floristic diversity	Data collection scheduled for 2016	Unknown
Structural complexity	Data collection scheduled for 2016	Unknown

Key findings

- TLC Reserve Manager Tim Devereux observed lyrebirds on the Reserve for the first time in 2015. TLC’s Science team assessed the Reserve, and has established five fauna monitoring sites to assess the potential for impacts on the Reserve’s values.

Recommendations

- Establish long-term ecological monitoring program
- Determine the potential impact of lyrebirds on the Reserve’s flora and fauna

Community connection with the landscape

Brown Mountain Reserve provides the community with a range of recreational, educational, research and volunteering opportunities. The tall eucalypt forests of the Reserve are a focus of research interest.

Goals

- People visit the Reserve every year for recreation, education or volunteering



Volunteer Marie Brolev on lyrebird reconnaissance

Community indicator	Current status	Trend
Volunteer days	1 volunteer days	Increase
Research and education	0 projects	Flat

Key findings

- A volunteer assisted TLC staff on a lyrebird reconnaissance mission
- Bushwalkers occasionally access the Reserve on route to Manny's Marsh. This group is interested in establishing a walking circuit.

Recommendations

- Continue to encourage community connections to the reserve by providing research, education, recreation or volunteering opportunities
- Maintain relationship with the local bushwalking community

Management Effectiveness Summary

Community engagement and neighbour relations

The TLC provides opportunities for the community and individuals to achieve conservation. The local community, volunteers, the indigenous community and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate in planning and land management activities. TLC Reserves provide excellent opportunities for education and scientific research. Sustainable economic development may be supported at some reserves where appropriate.

Key objective(s)

TLC provides opportunities for the community to experience or benefit from the Reserve



Lush vegetation of Brown Mountain

Outcome 2014

Access to the Reserve was maintained.

No visitors were recorded

Progress in 2014-15

- Tracks and signs were checked.

Key recommendations for future management

- Maintain access to the Reserve
- Ask the local bushwalkers to let us know when they are going there, so that TLC can monitor visitation
- Pursue right of way with Norske Skog