



# Annual Reserve Report

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Blue Tier Reserve 2014-15



[www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au)

## 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.

Blue Tier Reserve was acquired by the TLC in 2013 and protects 100 hectares of ancient rainforest on the slopes of the Blue Tier in northeast Tasmania. The Blue Tier Reserve is surrounded by a public reserve of the same name. The management of the Reserve is guided by the Blue Tier 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.

## Blue Tier Reserve Scorecard

<b>Monitoring</b>			
<b>Target</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Status 2014/15</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Rainforest	Floristic diversity		Baeline data collection is scheduled for 2016
	Structural complexity		
	Vertebrate fauna diversity		
Community connection to landscape	# volunteer days on the Reserve	25	Increase
	# visitors to the Reserve	100+	Increase
<b>Management Effectiveness</b>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Community engagement	# events at the Reserve	1	Flat
	# of volunteer activities at the Reserve	1	Flat

## Monitoring Summary

### Rainforest

The Blue Tier Reserve protects 100 hectares of old growth rainforest on the slopes of the Blue Tier plateau in northeast Tasmania. The rainforest is ancient, with huge myrtles dominating the canopy. The understorey is unusually diverse for temperate rainforest, with montane species such as celery top pine and waratah, along with rainforest regulars such as sassafras and tree ferns. The threatened Simson's Stag Beetle is the largest beetle in Tasmania and is found in leaf litter and decaying logs on the forest floor.

### Goals

- Maintain the floristic diversity of rainforest within 25% (ongoing)
- Maintain the structural complexity of rainforest within 25% (ongoing)
- Maintain the extent of rainforest (ongoing)
- Maintain Simson's Stag Beetle populations (ongoing)



Ancient rainforest

Ecological indicator	Current status	Trend
Floristic diversity	Data collection scheduled for 2016	Unknown
Structural complexity	Data collection scheduled for 2016	Unknown
Simson's Stag Beetle	widespread	Unknown

**Key findings**

- In 2014 TLC volunteer research associate Dr Jane Keble Williams led an expedition that discovered a large population of Simson's stag beetle on the Reserve.
- The neighbouring property has changed hands and a new house is being built there.

**Recommendations**

- Draft management plan text and background document
- Finalise covenant
- Establish long-term ecological monitoring program
- Investigate the neighbouring boundary area for potential impacts

**Community connection with the landscape**

Blue Tier Reserve and surrounding focal landscape provides the community with a range of recreational, educational, research and volunteering opportunities. The ancient rainforests and threatened invertebrate species of the Reserve are a focus of research interest. While the TLC’s Reserve is difficult to access, the surrounding public reserve has a network of walking and mountain biking trails.

**Goals**

- The Reserve’s natural values are presented to the community (ongoing)



TLC volunteers surveying the Reserve for Simson’s stag beetle

Community indicator	Current status	Trend
Volunteer days	25 volunteer days	Increase
Visitors	100+ visitors	Increase
Research and education	1 project	Increase
Financial contribution to local community	\$20,000 (100 people x \$200)	

**Key findings**

- TLC hosted an open day on the Blue Tier Plateau that was attended by over 100 people
- A team of five dedicated volunteers conducted a survey for Simson’s stag beetle in atrocious weather.
- Volunteers helped TLC staff run the Blue Tier open day, including expert biologists who lead rainforest forays.

**Recommendations**

- Continue to encourage community connections to the reserve by providing opportunities for research, education, recreation and volunteering
- Develop a metric for measuring financial contribution of all TLC activities to local community

## Management Effectiveness Summary

### Community engagement

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)

People visit the Reserve every year for recreation, education and volunteering



The Blue Tier open day

### Outcome 2014-15

TLC hosted an open day and supported one scientific research project

### Progress in 2014-15

- The Blue Tier open day attracted over 100 people who went on guided walks that showcased the Reserve's natural values.
- TLC hosted two volunteer activities – the open day and an invertebrate survey
- Neighbours were uncontactable due to confusion over handovers in the public reserve system between PWS and FT.

### Key recommendations for future management

- Continue to provide opportunities for people to connect with the Reserve.
- Try and identify a key contact person for the Reserve, either in PWS or FT so that a right of footway can be negotiated