



Annual Report

Tom Hay Reserve 2018-19



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. The TLC has adopted an adaptive management framework – the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation which comprises– planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting, review/adapt and communication.

The Tom Hay Reserve was gifted to the TLC in 2015 after it was subdivided from the adjacent property. The Reserve is only 0.3ha in size but adjoins the Rat Bay Conservation Area and several other private conservation reserves providing a pivotal corridor for threatened species such as the forty spotted pardalote, swift parrot and eastern quoll and a refugia for other wildlife on the island.

The management of the Reserve is guided by the Tom Hay Conservation Statement with works implemented by TLC staff through an Annual Work Plan and Monitoring Plan. Details of ecological monitoring methods can be found on www.tasland.org.au.

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2018-19, 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.

Tom Hay Reserve Scorecard 2018-19

| Target | Indicator | Status 2016-17 | Status 2017-18 | Status 2018-19 Trend |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Dry forest and woodland | General condition | Good condition | Good condition | Good condition |
| Feral cat detections | Cat activity | 0-0 detections / 35 trap nights | 0-0 detections / 28 trap nights | 0.03 -1 detection / 35 trap nights |
| Terrestrial mammals | Species richness | 4 native species 0 introduced species | 5 native species 0 introduced species | 6 native species 2 introduced species |
| | Proportion native species | 1 | 1 | 0.75 |
| | Native species diversity indices | Simpsons 0.41 Shannon-Wiener 0.78 | Simpsons 0.68 Shannon-Wiener 1.29 | Simpsons 0.75 Shannon-Wiener 1.54 |
| Strategy | Indicator | Status 2016-17 | Status 2017-18 | Status 2018-19 Trend |
| Site Intactness and neighbour liasion | Weed invasion | No invasion noted | No invasion noted | No invasion noted |
| | Wood removal | No evidence | No evidence | No evidence |
| | Litter or rubbish dumping | No evidence | No evidence | No evidence |
| | Sensitive site intact | No disturbance | No disturbance | No disturbance |
| | Neighbour liasion | Regular and ongoing | Regular and ongoing | Regular and ongoing |

Cover image: Tom Hay Reserve fauna camera site and steel peg for veg monitoring. Credit: S Bryant TLC.

Monitoring Summary

| Dry Forest and Woodland | | Status: Good | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Goal: Maintain the condition of the forest and woodland | | Outcome: On Track | | |
| Target Description: The Tom Hay Reserve is dominated by black peppermint (<i>E. amygdalina</i>) with white gum (<i>E. viminalis</i>) and white peppermint (<i>E. pulchella</i>) as occasional sub-dominant canopy species. Understorey trees and tall shrubs include bull-oak, native hop, she-oak, banksia, drupe bush, native cherry and coast beard heath. The ground layer is diverse and dominated by shrubs and sedges, including grasstrees (<i>Xanthorrhoea australis</i>). No weeds were located on the Reserve and the native vegetation is in excellent condition. DAS is listed as vulnerable under the Tasmanian <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> . A long term monitoring site using repeat photos is at the steel peg on the boundary | | Feral cat detected on camera Nov 2018 Photo S Bryant | | |
| | |  | | |
| Target | Indicator | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 - Trend |
| Dry forest and woodland | General condition | Good condition | No change | No change |
| Feral cat detections | Cat activity | 0 0 detections / 35 trap nights | 0 0 detections / 28 trap nights | 0.03 (1 detection / 35 trap nights) |
| Terrestrial mammals | Species richness | 4 native species 0 introduced species | 5 native species 0 introduced species | 6 native species 2 introduced species |
| | Proportion native species | 1 | 1 | 0.75 |
| | Native species diversity indices | Simpsons 0.41 Shannon-Wiener 0.78 | Simpsons 0.68 Shannon-Wiener 1.29 | Simpsons 0.75 Shannon-Wiener 1.54 |
| Key findings in 2018-19 | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat site images were collected on the Reserve in Nov 2018. The vegetation community remains in good ecological condition though a dry climate period. Eastern quoll, potoroo, Bennetts wallaby, brushtail possum, Tas pademelon, echidna, rodent, feral cat, were recorded with multiple diggings observed across the site. While site richness is increasing two feral species have now been detected The feral cat information was supplied to the Bruny cat management program were detected | | | | |
| Recommendations | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat fauna camera monitoring in 2019-20 and photo from boundary peg. Continue to report any cat detections to the BI Cat Management Program | | | | |

Management Effectiveness Summary

| Site intactness and neighbour liaison | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Key objective(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site remains intact and neighbour relations maintained | | | Status 2018-19 On-track |
| Strategy description The Tom Hay Reserve will be assessed for key indicators during the annual reserve inspection to ensure the site remains ecologically intact, no physical disturbance has occurred and there is ongoing evidence of the areas ecological robustness in the surrounding region. Maintaining good relations with the previous owners is essential to ensure security and private access to the site is maintained and the sensitive site remains untouched and protected. | |  <p>Staff undertaking site assessment Oct 2018 Photo TLC</p> | |
| Indicator | Status 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 Trend |
| Weed invasion | No invasion noted | No change | No change - stable |
| Wood removal | No evidence | No change | No change - stable |
| Litter or rubbish dumping | No evidence | No change | No change - stable |
| Sensitive site intact | No disturbance | No change | No change - stable |
| Neighbour liaison | Regular and ongoing | No change | No change - stable |
| Progress in 2018-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site inspection on Oct - Nov 2018 by S Bryant with camera and site photos collected. Reserve condition remains good but vegetation is dry across the island No weeds detected No evidence of wood cutting No evidence of fire or rubbish dumping No sign of new tracks or other disturbance events were noted A database of site photos and other notes are being maintained on the TLC Server Communication is ongoing with the neighbouring property owners through TLC events and engagements | | | |
| Key recommendations for future management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain good communication with the donors and adjacent landholders. No TLC signage or fencing is to be erected. Maintain the boundary photo every three years from the steel boundary peg. | | | |