



Annual Report

Tom Hay Reserve 2016-17



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 2016-17, 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 2016-17


Monitoring Summary	Indicator	Status 2016-17	Baseline
Dry forest and woodland	General Condition	Good ecological condition	No change
Feral cat detections	Cat activity	0 (0 detections / 35 trap nights)	Baseline data
Terrestrial mammals	Species richness	4 native species 0 introduced species	Baseline data
	Proportion native species	1	Baseline data
	Native species diversity indices	Simpsons 0.41 Shannon-Wiener 0.78	Baseline data
Management Strategy	Indicator	Status 2016-17	Trend
Site Intactness and neighbour liasion	Weed invasion	No invasion noted	No change
	Wood removal	No evidence	No change
	Litter or rubbish dumping	No evidence	No change
	Sensitive site intact	No disturbance	No change
	Neighbour liasion	Regular and ongoing	Stable

Cover image: Coastal scene from Tom Hay Reserve. Credit: Dan Sprod TLC.

Monitoring Summary

Dry Forest and Woodland		Status: Very 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		Dry forest monitoring site May 2017 Photo T Deveraux 
Target	Indicator	Status in 2016-17 – Baseline Condition
Dry forest and woodland	General condition	Good ecological condition
Feral cat detections	Cat activity	0 (0 detections / 35 trap nights)
Terrestrial mammals	Species richness	4 native species 0 introduced species
	Proportion native species	1
	Native species diversity indices	Simpsons 0.41 Shannon-Wiener 0.78
Key findings in 2016-17		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat site images were collected during Reserve inspection in May 2017. • The vegetation community remains in good ecological condition though dry climate period. • One camera trap was installed near the sensitive site for mammal monitoring in Dec 2015. • Eastern quoll, potoroo, Bennetts wallaby and brushtail possum were recorded with multiple evidence of diggings across the Reserve. • No feral cats were detected 		
Recommendations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat fauna camera monitoring in 2017-18 and photo from boundary peg. • Report and feral cat detections to the Bruny 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 2016-17 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.		
Dry forest on Tom Hay Reserve May 2017 Photo T Deveraux		
Indicator	Status 2016-17	Trend
Weed invasion	No invasion noted	No change
Wood removal	No evidence	No change
Litter or rubbish dumping	No evidence	No change
Sensitive site intact	No disturbance	No change
Neighbour liaison	Regular and ongoing	No change
Progress in 2016-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site inspection on Dec 2016 by T Devereux and 16 May 2017 with site photos collected. Reserve inspection note below on 16 May 2017: Reserve condition looks good No weeds detected and although one grasstree below the sensitive site was dying no evidence of Phytophthora was found in susceptible plants No wood cutting Tree bags and stakes could be removed from the site. One planted white gum had died Apart from a small walking pad leading to sensitive site, very little impacts No evidence of recent fire and no rubbish found No sign of new tracks or other disturbance events were noted. Communication is maintained with the neighbouring property owners on a regular basis through TLC events and engagements 		
Key recommendations for future management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Reserve assessment will determine Reserve status and detect potential threats. Maintain good communication with the donors and adjacent landholders. No TLC signage or fencing is to be erected. A boundary photo is required every three years (i.e. 2017-18) from the steel boundary peg. A database of site photos and other notes are to be maintained on the TLC Server. 		