



Annual Report

Stony Farm Reserve 2018-19



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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. 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.

Stony Farm Reserve was gifted to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy by the Schier family in 2014. The Reserve is 22.26 ha of forested land on the slopes of North Sister in north-east Tasmania. It contains threatened dry blue gum forest (DGL) and a number of threatened fauna species. The TLC has partnered with the North East Tasmania Land Trust (NETLT) to manage this Reserve.

The management of the Reserve is guided by the Stony Farm Management Plan with works implemented by NETLT supporters independently or in partnership with the TLC staff.

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2018-19, and contains a:

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.

Stony Farm Reserve Scorecard 2018-19

Ecological Monitoring				
Target	Indicator	Status 2013-2014	Status 2015-2016	Status 2016-17
Dry Forest condition	Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	8 lifeforms/site 2 cohorts/site		
Terrestrial mammals	Species richness	6 native species 1 introduced species	5 native species 0 introduced species	4 native species 0 introduced species
	Proportion native species	0.86	1.00	1.00
	Native species diversity indices	Simpsons 0.66 Shannon-Wiener 1.35	Simpsons 0.67 Shannon-Wiener 1.27	Simpsons 0.51 Shannon-Wiener 0.97
	eastern quoll activity	0	0.04 (1 detection, 27 trap nights)	0
Native carnivores	spotted-tailed quoll activity	0	0	0.04 (1 detection, 24 trap nights)
	Tasmanian devil activity	0	0.44 (12 detections, 27 trap nights)	0.50 (12 detections, 24 trap nights)
	Cat activity	0.01 (1 detection, 68 trap nights)	0 (October 2015: 0.04)	0 (November: 0.06)
Pest species	Cat activity	0.01 (1 detection, 68 trap nights)	0 (October 2015: 0.04)	0 (November: 0.06)
Management Strategy				
Strategy	Indicator	Status 2013-2014	Status 2015-2016	Status 2016-17
Site Intactness and NETLT	Illegal access	No illegal access detected	No illegal access detected	No illegal access detected
	NETLT partnership	Communications ongoing	Communications ongoing	Communications ongoing

Cover image: Photosphere of Stony Farm Reserve 2018. Credit: TLC monitoring

Monitoring Summary

Dry Forest and Woodland			Status: Very Good		
Goal: The condition of the dry forest is maintained			Outcome: On Track		
Target Description: The mature dry forest ecosystem is a conservation target at Stony Farm Reserve which remains in good condition. It occurs across the entire Reserve comprising Blue gum forest DGL, Brown-topped stringybark dry forest (DOB); and small area of broad-leaved shrubs (SBR).					
Ground monitoring site STFA003 Stony Farm Reserve					
Target	Indicator	Status 2013-2014	2015-2016	2016-17	2017-18
Dry Forest condition	Structural complexity	8 lifeforms/site			8 lifeforms/site
	Canopy recruitment	2 cohorts/site			2 cohorts/site
Terrestrial mammals	Species richness	6 native species 1 introduced species	5 native species 0 introduced species	4 native species 0 introduced species	5 native species 0 introduced species
	Proportion native species	0.86	1.00	1.00	0.83
	Native species diversity indices	Simpsons 0.66 Shannon-Wiener 1.35	Simpsons 0.67 Shannon-Wiener 1.27	Simpsons 0.51 Shannon-Wiener 0.97	Simpsons 0.74 Shannon-Wiener 1.45
Native carnivores	eastern quoll activity	0	0.04 (1 detect 27 trap night)	0	0
	spotted-tailed quoll activity	0	0	0.04 (1detect, 24 trapnights)	0.16 (3 detect, 19 trap nights)
	Tasmanian devil activity	0	0.44 (12 detections, 27 trap nights)	0.50 (12 detections, 24 trap nights)	0.42 (8 detections, 19 trap nights)
Pest species	Cat activity	0.01 (1 detection, 68 trap nights)	0 (October 2015: 0.04)	0 (November: 0.06)	0.05 (1 detect, 19 trap nights)


Key findings in 2018-19

- Three veg monitoring sites were established in May 2014. Repeat site images were collected in June 2017 including photospheres.
- Mammal monitoring is undertaken regularly at 1 to 3 sites. 10 mammal species detected are: T. devil, eastern quoll, spotted-tail quoll, feral cat, brushtail possum, wombat, echidna, potoroo, pademelon, Bennett’s wallaby.
- Devil facial tumour disease was detected and nice spotted-tail quoll images collected
- The vegetation community remains in good ecological condition with no fire or weeds.

Recommendations

- Repeat fauna camera monitoring in 2020-21 consistent with TLC monitoring protocols

Management Effectiveness Summary

Site Intactness and NETLT relations				
Key objective(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site remains intact and NETLT relations maintained			Status 2018-19 On-track	
Strategy description <p>The TLC has partnered with the North East Tasmania Land Trust (NETLT) to manage this Reserve. NETLT is a community-based group that protects land in north-east Tasmania www.netlandtrust.org.au. A Memorandum of Understanding between the TLC and NETLT was agreed in 2012 with the objective to work together to manage private land that will be a strategic addition to Australia’s National Reserve System. The maintenance of an effective partnership with the NETLT is a high priority for the TLC.</p>		 <p>NETLT member Andrew Lohry has continued annual monitoring at the reserve: NETLT monitoring camera</p>		
Indicator	Status 2013-2014	Status 2015-2016	Status 2016-17	Status 2018-19
Illegal access	No illegal access detected	No illegal access detected	No illegal access detected	No illegal access detected
NETLT partnership	Communications ongoing	Communications ongoing	Communications ongoing	Communications ongoing
Progress in 2018-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">TLC CEO maintains communication with NETLTMammal monitoring is being maintained by Andrew LohryNo sign of illegal access has been detected.				
Key recommendations for future management <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue ongoing relations with NETLT and undertake site visit with Andrew Lohrey when possible				