

Pullen Pullen Reserve

Scorecard 2016 - 2021

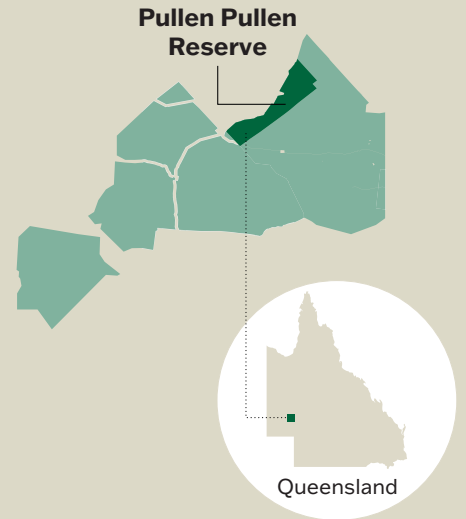


Our vision

We are working with Maiawali Traditional Owners and partners to protect cultural and ecological values on Pullen Pullen. The reserve is a respected focus for Night Parrot research and demonstrates evidence-based conservation management of Channel Country habitats and other species.

Pullen Pullen was acquired to secure habitat for the Night Parrot, which is nationally endangered under the EPBC Act 1999. Pullen Pullen is an important stronghold for the Night Parrot, and the only population subject to intensive research nationally. Research at Pullen Pullen provides an invaluable contribution to broader scientific knowledge and understanding of this rare and cryptic species. The reserve supports a wide range of vegetation types including spinifex slopes and plains and acacia woodlands. The landscape consists of desert plains, rock pavements, and braided watercourses lined with Gidgee and Mulga woodlands.

In 2019, the Queensland Government legislated a new class of protected area, and Bush Heritage was successful in the declaration of Pullen Pullen as the first Special Wildlife Reserve in Australia.



Reserve size: 56,000 hectares

Acquisition year: 2016

Traditional Owners:
Maiawali people

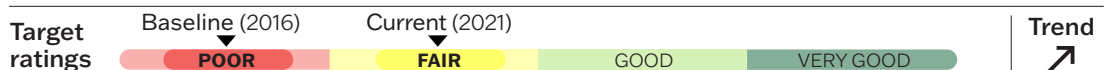
Our conservation targets

This section summarises the long-term health rating of each target and trend since acquisition. Ratings are based on ecological monitoring data and expert knowledge.



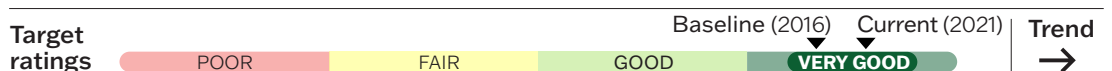
Night Parrot

In 2016, pairs of birds were known from two long-term stable roost sites. As of late 2022, the number of long-term roost sites has increased to four. Initial searches for long-term stable roost sites and ongoing monitoring involved hundreds of individual deployments of autonomous recording units and the collection of thousands of hours of acoustic data. These results provide evidence of a stable, slightly increasing population on the reserve. Ongoing monitoring remains critical to track further population trends and continue building our understanding of this unique species.



Spinifex (Night Parrot habitat)

Spinifex provides important key roosting and breeding habitat for the Night Parrot. Old, long-unburnt spinifex provides essential cover and plays a critical role in the species' persistence.



Floodplains and Night Parrot foraging areas

Expansive herb fields and open downs country provide feeding grounds for Night Parrots. Vegetation has responded positively to destocking and ongoing stock removal, resulting in an increase in seed availability for species like the Night Parrot following grazing exclusion.



Managing threats

Threat	Recent rating	Trend	Resource investment	What are we doing?
Feral cats	HIGH	→	👤👤👤 \$\$	Feral cats are a high threat to the Night Parrot and are a key management focus. Ongoing control has maintained pressure on feral cat populations to safeguard Night Parrot populations.
Inappropriate fire	LOW	→	👤👤 \$\$	No wildfires have occurred on the reserve since acquisition; however, ongoing monitoring and maintenance of fire breaks are necessary to mitigate the threat of future wildfires.
Fencing	MEDIUM	↘		Removal of internal fencing has reduced the threat of bird strike. However, fences are still required along neighbouring boundaries. Steps have been taken to increase fencing visibility through use of wildlife-friendly tape.
Grazing (stray stock)	LOW	↓	Ongoing vigilance	An effective boundary fence (installation of >50km of fauna-friendly stock-proof fencing) has reduced grazing pressure. Cattle incursions reduced from >400 to 5 in 2021.
Buffel Grass	LOW	→	Ongoing vigilance	Buffel mapping commenced in 2018. Infestations are minimal; however, ongoing vigilance is required with the objective of containment and to prevent seed spread into Night Parrot habitat.

Strategy highlight:

Grass recovery

Understanding the impact of both climate and grazing on the productive floodplains and run-on areas of Channel Country is critical to the management of these important resources. 5 years on from destocking we are seeing positive signs of native grass recovery. We are working with the University of Queensland to investigate how remote sensing techniques can be used to better assess the condition of these areas over time.



1
Threatened
fauna species



12
BHA supported
research projects



1,904
Volunteer hours
(since 2017)

Bush Heritage acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the places in which we live, work, and play. We recognise the enduring relationships they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We are deeply grateful to our partners and supporters who are a core part of our conservation work, including Maiawali Traditional Owners and the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES).