

Nardoo Hills Reserve

Scorecard 2015 - 2022



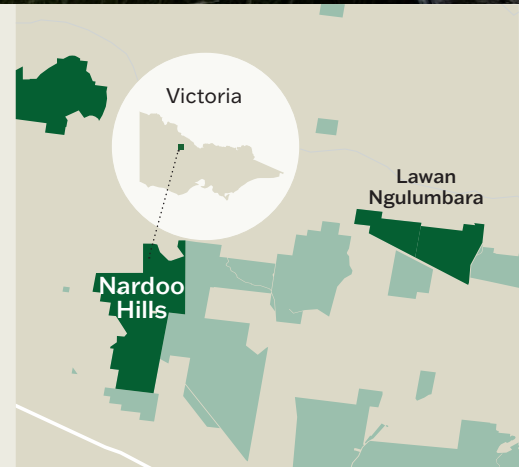
Our vision

We are working with Djaara, farmers, and landholders to reverse the decline of threatened species and reconnect the Kara Kara-Wedderburn focal landscape.

Nardoo Hills is part of a broader cultural landscape on djandak (Djaara Country). We are working with Djaara to identify significant places and dhelkunya dja (heal Country).

Situated within the Goldfields bioregion, the reserve plays a vital role in connecting fragmented box-ironbark forests and woodlands and supporting landscape connectivity to other forest patches.

Temperate grassy woodlands and Box-Ironbark Forest support over 110 bird species, including Hooded Robin (the subspecies found on Nardoo Hills is EPBC-listed as endangered) and Diamond Firetail (EPBC-listed vulnerable).



Reserve size: 1,200 hectares
Acquisition year: 2005
Traditional Owners:
Dja Dja Wurrung (Djaara) 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.



Grassy woodlands

Yellow Box woodland, along with the nationally-endangered Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands vegetation community, provide essential habitat components for threatened and declining woodland fauna, including Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail, Jacky Winter, and Black-chinned Honeyeater.

Many trees experienced canopy dieback during the 2017/18 drought. While there are signs of regeneration, it will take over a decade to fully restore canopy cover.



Threatened orchids

Nardoo Hills supports two species of rare and threatened orchids, the Northern Golden Moths (state-listed as endangered) and Robust Greenhood (EPBC-listed as critically endangered). Both species occur only in Victoria.



Managing threats

Threat	Recent rating	Trend	Resource investment	What are we doing?
Drought/heatwaves (climate change)	HIGH	↗	👤👤👤 \$\$\$	Research into revegetation using plants sourced from hotter and drier regions is providing data to inform future restoration efforts. Hydrological restoration works will increase soil water availability and resilience to future environmental extremes.
Overabundant macropods	HIGH	↗	👤👤 \$\$	Enclosures have been constructed around young vegetation and ongoing monitoring plots, to measure the impacts of total grazing pressure on vegetation and better inform management strategies.
Erosion	MEDIUM	↗	👤👤👤 \$\$\$	Major watershed repairs are underway to fix erosion and micro-catchment hydrology utilising earthworks, targeted revegetation, and rehabilitation of groundwater springs.
Inappropriate fire	HIGH	→	👤👤 \$\$	Maintenance of strategic fire breaks and mapping of significant trees is ongoing. We are working with Djaara to better understand djandak wi (cultural fire) in this landscape and implement dhelkunya wi (healing fire).
Weeds	MEDIUM	→	👤👤👤 \$\$	Ongoing control of priority weed species such as Wheel Cactus, Paterson's Curse, and Horehound helps to limit their spread.
Sheep	MEDIUM	↘	Ongoing vigilance	Regular boundary fence checks and ongoing maintenance helps to prevent sheep incursions from neighbouring properties.

Strategy highlight:

Wurreka Galkangu – an ongoing partnership journey

Bush Heritage and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (trading as Djaara) have been working together for over fifteen years. In 2020, the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust generously funded the *Wurreka Galkangu* project, growing the partnership and helping to support culturally-led conversations. Our approach for developing partnerships is about going on a journey, and developing respectful and lasting relationships across generations. A significant focus for the coming years is the development of a shared strategic partnership plan with Djaara and implementation of associated on-Country activities.



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 Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (trading as Djaara)