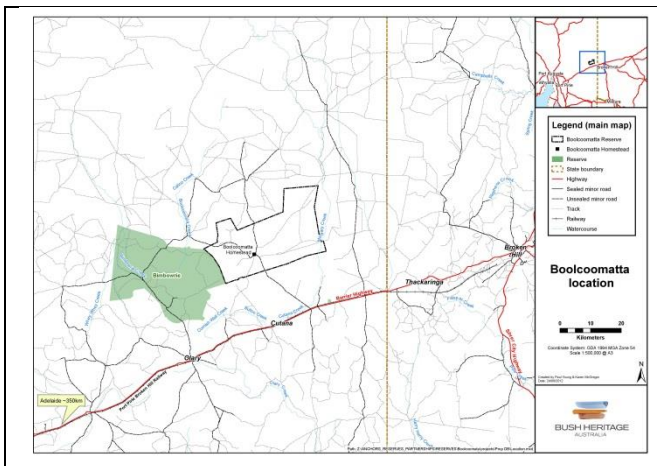


Boolcoomatta Reserve Scorecard

2006-2011



Key Facts

Date acquired: 2006 **Size:** 63,000 ha

Location: South Australian arid Rangelands

Traditional Owners: Adnyamathanha and Wilyakali

Key Staff: Reserve Managers: Paul and Bec O'Leary / Peter Ashton. Ecologist: Sandy Gilmore

Key Partners: Bimbowrie [Conservation Park](#) [Nat Park](#)

Goals & Objectives:

Sandy dunes and sheets

By 2030, the majority of Purplewood sites will have multiple age classes of Purplewood.

By 2018 there are numerous sightings of Dusky hopping mice.

Rocky Hills

By 2025, ground cover (ephemeral and perennial cover) has increased by 15% from 2010 levels

Abundance & diversity of woodland birds increases

Creeks and floodplains

Relative productivity has increased by 10%

Depth and width of bank incisions reduced

Open plains

By 2025, perennial cover has increased to 15-25%.

Three key bird species are recorded per monitoring site

Ephemeral Wetlands

By 2020, the hydrological regime has returned to a more natural state and primary productivity has increased

Key Management strategies:

- Control feral predators
- Control rabbits
- Control goats
- Manage macropods
- Control erosion
- Control weeds
- Manage fire

Target Health status & trend

Key Targets	Status & Trend	Confidence Level
Sandy dunes and sheets		
Creeks and floodplains		
Rocky Hills		
Open Plains		
Ephemeral wetlands		

Threat status & trend

Key Threats	Status & Trend	Persistence
Control feral predators		\$
Control rabbits		\$\$
Control goats		\$
Manage macropods		\$\$
Control erosion		\$
Control weeds		\$
Manage fire		✓

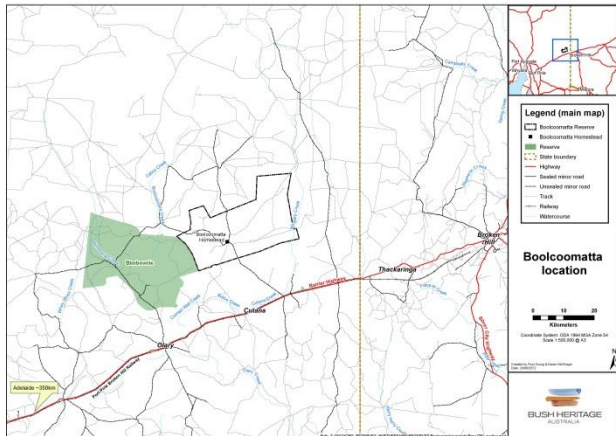
Commentary

Following the cessation of sheep grazing in 2006, subsequent removal of goats and most rabbits significantly reduced grazing pressure and soil disturbance. When coupled with three wet years (2010 to 2012) vegetation health and bird abundance across all targets increased significantly. This demonstrates underlying resilience in the landscape. The response of macropod populations to the vegetation recovery was immediate and numbers increased well beyond the estimated carrying capacity of the land.

Monitoring effort provided effective results for birds and vegetation, but not for Purplewood and small mammal populations including Dusky Hopping mice.

Boolcoomatta Reserve Scorecard

2011-2016



Key Facts

Key Staff: Reserve Managers: Peter Ashton / Glen Norris
Ecologist: Sandy Gilmore

Goals & Objectives:

Sandy dunes and sheets

By 2030, the majority of Purplewood sites will have multiple age classes of Purplewood.

By 2018 there are numerous sightings of Dusky hopping mice.

Rocky Hills

Abundance & diversity of woodland birds increases

By 2050, perennial cover has increased by 15% from 2010 levels, and woodland birds are abundant and diverse

Creeks and floodplains

Depth and width of bank incisions reduced

By 2020, primary productivity in the drainage lines and floodplains has increased by 10%, stream banks are stable and weed cover has not increased from 2010 levels.

Open plains

By 2050, perennial cover has increased to 15-25% and there are 3 key bird species per monitoring site.

Ephemeral Wetlands

By 2020, the hydrological regime has returned to a more natural state and primary productivity has increased

Key Management strategies:

- Control feral predators
- Control rabbits
- Control goats
- Manage macropods
- Control erosion
- Control weeds
- Manage fire

Target Health status & trend

Key Targets	Status & Trend	Confidence Level
Sandy dunes and sheets		
Creeks and floodplains		
Rocky Hills		
Open Plains		
Ephemeral wetlands		

Threat status & trend

Key Threats	Status & Trend	Persistence
Control feral predators		\$
Control rabbits		\$\$
Control goats		\$
Manage macropods		\$\$
Control erosion		\$\$\$
Control weeds		\$
Manage fire		✓

Commentary

















Between 2011 and 2016 recruited mulga continued to thrive across large areas on certain rocky hills, while bird diversity and abundance plateaued.

Over this time Boolcoomatta received mostly average rainfall, but it produced little penetrating rain. Heavy falls slightly exacerbated gully erosion. Wind and water continued to cause significant sheet erosion, exacerbated by the increasing grazing pressure and trampling by macropods. The weed Paterson's Curse increased, while the extent of African Boxthorn decreased.















Ongoing investment will focus on managing erosion heads and reducing macropod grazing pressure.

Scorecard Description

Key Conservation Targets are the ecological entities: communities, species, or cultural factors, within the project area which Bush Heritage has chosen to value most highly to help focus our work. Targets are the basis for setting goals, carrying out conservation actions, and measuring conservation impact. Each property usually has around 4-6 Targets. The Targets allow prioritisation of effort and resources. The scorecard shows the latest Status and recent Trend in the health – or Viability - of each Target. The ratings are derived from measures against a number of Indicators which define the key attributes of the Target. Further details of the key attributes, Indicators and measures can be found in the Target Viability Table within Miradi. The Status and Trend symbols are defined below. The Confidence rating is a judgement call by project staff and gives an indication of the extent of data available from which the ratings are derived.

Status Rating	Trend indicator	Confidence Level
 Very Good	 Strong increase / improvement	 Very high
 Good	 Mild increase / improvement	 High
 Fair	 Flat	 Moderate
 Poor	 Mild decrease / degrading	 Low
 Uncertain	 Strong decrease / rapidly degrading	 Very low
	 Unknown / uncertain	

Key Threats are identified for each target; these become the focus of management actions. A rating system is used to assess each threat in terms of its scope, severity and permanence to derive an overall Status rating. The Trend rating is a judgement on the degree of change since the last Status rating. Three threats (Fire, feral animals, and weeds) occur on almost all properties and the ratings are therefore comparable across properties. In addition, a few other key threats are listed for each property, along with any major threats that have been removed or controlled through Bush Heritage's actions. The Persistence rating a judgement call by project staff and gives an indication of the on-going effort required to manage the threat.

Status Rating	Trend indicator	Persistence Level
 Low	 Strong increase / improvement	 Permanently removed
 Medium	 Mild increase / improvement	 Ongoing vigilance required
 High	 Flat	 Ongoing investment required
 Very High	 Mild decrease / degrading	
 Uncertain	 Strong decrease / rapidly degrading	
	 Unknown / uncertain	