

# Boolcoommatta Reserve

Scorecard 2015 - 2022



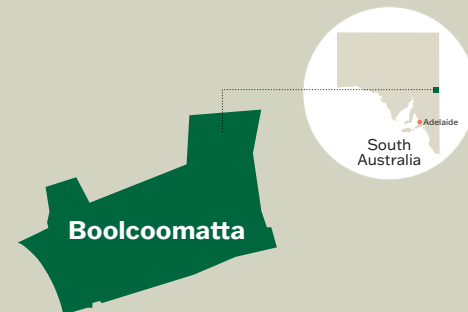
Bush Heritage  
Australia

## Our vision

We work with the community to manage the biological and cultural values of Boolcoommatta and enhance the health and resilience of the region.

Boolcoommatta Reserve protects vegetation communities under-represented in Australia's National Reserve System, and threatened species including Plains-wanderer, Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, and Purplewood Acacia.

Previous management as a sheep station for over 150 years had long-term impacts on Boolcoommatta's vegetation, soil, and hydrology. The reserve was destocked in 2006, but grazing impacts from overabundant macropods, goats, and rabbits continue to impact vegetation recovery, necessitating ongoing management of these threats. A full recovery is expected to take several decades, but recent good years have shown the potential.



Reserve size: 63,000 hectares

Acquisition year: 2006

Traditional Custodians:

Adnyamathanha and Wilyakali people

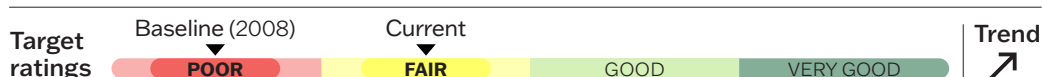
## Our conservation targets

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.



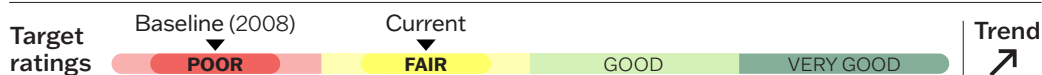
### Sandy dunes and sheets

Low amplitude dune fields are present along the Oonart Creek and provide habitat for birds, mammals, and reptiles. Thick sandy sheets support shrublands, including the nationally threatened Purplewood Acacia. To aid Purplewood recruitment we initiated a fencing project to protect it from rabbits.



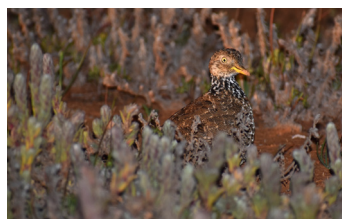
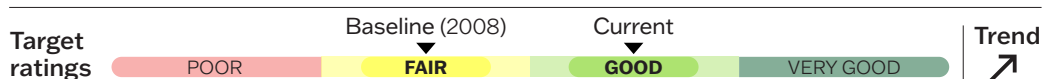
### Rocky Hills

Low rocky hills and upland are situated on the eastern margin of the Flinders/Olary ranges and support the threatened Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and Slender Bell Fruit. In 2021, we planted a Mulga orchard as a potential seed source to revegetate the rocky hills.



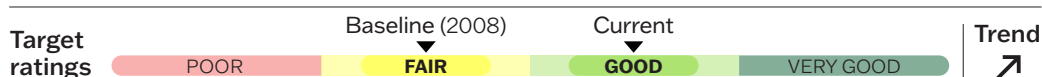
### Creeks and floodplains

Creeks, drainage lines, and floodplains are key refugia during prolonged bust periods. The unique Oonart Creek floodout now contains significant understory cover of palatable and perennial species since stock removal and with ongoing threat control.



### Open plains

This Target supports a range of significant species. Research has confirmed healthy breeding of the threatened Plains-wanderer in response to suitable conditions. Recent rainfall and reduced grazing has supported increased, species-rich ground cover.



# Managing threats

Threat	Recent rating	Trend	Resource investment	What are we doing?
Weeds	MEDIUM	↘	👤👤💰💰	The 2020–2022 La Niña cycle brought wetter conditions and an opportunity to undertake critical weed control and integrated pest management. Ongoing control of Peppercorn trees, Boxthorns and Noogoora Burr, is needed to reduce this threat.
Hydrological dysfunction (erosion)	MEDIUM	↗	👤👤👤💰💰💰💰	Recent heavy rains highlighted the importance of a strategic long-term approach to landscape rehydration works that can withstand 50-year floods and future extreme weather events. We mapped Boolcoommatta, developed a rehydration plan and have begun its implementation.
Total grazing pressure	MEDIUM	↘	👤👤👤💰💰	We have established and maintained fencing around dams and a Purplewood Acacia site and have removed 578 goats since 2018. Palatable species are showing less browse lines and more recruitment.
Rabbits	MEDIUM	↘	👤👤💰💰	Targeted rabbit control was completed in 2020 for 167 warrens associated with Purplewood with low re-colonisation since. Ongoing management is needed to support recruitment of native vegetation.
Introduced Predators (foxes and feral cats)	MEDIUM	↘	👤👤💰💰	Since implementing the aerial baiting program (Bounceback) in 2018 we have detected zero foxes at Boolcoommatta and Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies have recolonised. Our camera array provides information on feral fox and cat activity to inform effective management, and future research on their movement and control is a priority.

Strategy highlight:

## Landscape rehydration project

Landscape rehydration has been a major focus for restoration efforts at Boolcoommatta to ensure that water flows healthily through the landscape and sustains life for its species. We engaged Traditional Custodians for cultural surveys prior to this work and developed a plan to prioritise areas for intervention. Our research assessed the accuracy of drone mapping of erosion gullies and we then repaired tracks and waterflows around dams. We also installed filters and check banks to mitigate erosion and restore surface water flow.



4

Threatened  
flora  
species



4

Threatened  
bird species



149

Bird  
species



23

Native  
mammal  
species



45

Reptile  
species



22,674

Volunteer hours  
(since 2017)

Bush Heritage acknowledges the Traditional Custodians 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.