

Edgbaston Reserve

Scorecard 2013 - 2023



Bush Heritage
Australia

Our vision

To protect and enhance the natural, cultural, and spiritual values of Edgbaston and foster the recovery of its threatened and endemic species.

Edgbaston was acquired to recover and protect the critically endangered Red-finned Blue-eye. The entire wild population of this fish is on Edgbaston – its survival as a species depends on our management.

Edgbaston protects the most biologically-rich Great Artesian Basin spring complex in Australia. The property's remnant vegetation and mostly-intact ecosystems are recovering from previous grazing pressure.



Reserve size: 8,074 hectares

Acquisition year: 2008

Traditional Custodians:
Bidjara People

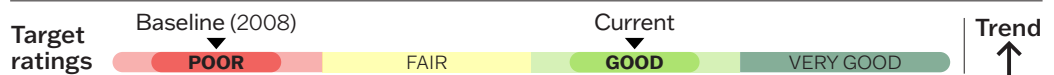
Our conservation targets

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.



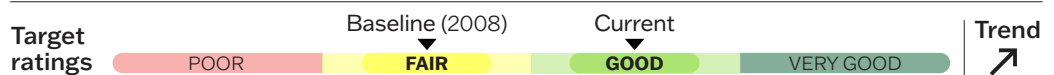
Red-finned Blue-eye

The number of Red-finned Blue-eye populations has grown from 10 in 2014 to 13 in 2023 driven by our translocations and management of the invasive *Gambusia* fish.



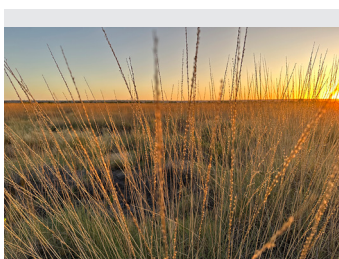
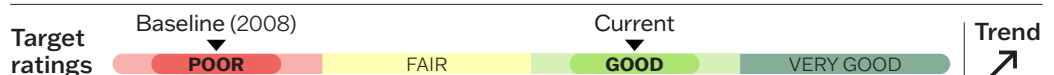
Artesian Springs ecological community

Edgbaston's springs have the highest species richness of all Great Artesian Basin springs. Populations of threatened Edgbaston Goby and endemic snail species have remained stable, and the critically endangered Aloe Pipewort and Giant Pipewort are stable or increasing.



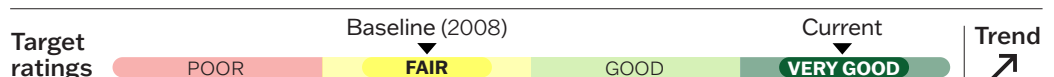
Mitchell Grass Downs

15 years after livestock were removed from Edgbaston, native perennial grass cover has improved.



Spinifex hummock grasslands

Giant Grey Spinifex grasslands occur on sandy soils in the eastern part of the reserve. Their healthy condition has provided habitat for a range of small mammals, reptiles, and birds dependent on long unburned areas of spinifex. The critically endangered plant *Solanum adoxum* is dependent on this habitat type at Edgbaston.



Managing threats

| Threat | Recent rating | Trend | Resource investment | What are we doing? |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|---------------------|---|
| Gambusia | HIGH | ↑ | 👤👤👤 \$ | Gambusia were eradicated from eight springs during the reporting period, and excellent progress has been made in removing them from progressively larger springs, however they continue to invade other springs across the reserve. Constant surveillance is needed to detect incursions, and management responses must be implemented rapidly. |
| Woody weeds | MEDIUM | ↗ | 👤 \$\$\$ | Four Weeds of National Significance are present on Edgbaston: Prickly acacia, Parkinsonia, Mesquite and Rubbervine. A total of around 5,000 hectares of the reserve has been treated consistently across a range of habitats. Continued investment in weed control is required. |
| Feral pigs | MEDIUM | ? | 👤 \$\$ | Feral pigs are a serious threat to the Artesian Springs ecological community and Red-finned Blue-eye, and a lesser threat to terrestrial ecosystems. We have installed exclusion fences around five springs to reduce impact – pig control is ongoing. |
| Buffel grass | HIGH | ↗ | 👤👤 \$\$\$ | Buffel Grass is a high threat to fire-sensitive acacia woodland and spinifex hummock grassland habitats. Monitoring between 2018 and 2023 indicates that Buffel Grass is increasing in the most sensitive acacia woodland habitat but is stable elsewhere. |

Strategy highlight:

Gambusia eradication

In 2023, we were able to efficiently eradicate Gambusia from increasingly larger springs that would have been considered 'lost causes' in 2013. The process included controlled burns, slashing, exclusion fencing, internal partitions, pumping, using fish poisons, electrofishing, and eDNA sampling. Eradicating Gambusia from large springs is important, as these are the only places that have the capacity to support larger, resilient and genetically-viable, Red-finned Blue-eye and Edgbaston Goby populations.



11

Threatened
flora
species



2

Threatened
fish species



163

Bird
species



19

Native
mammal
species



63

Reptile
species



13,314

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.