

Fitz-Stirling Reserves

Scorecard 2017 - 2022



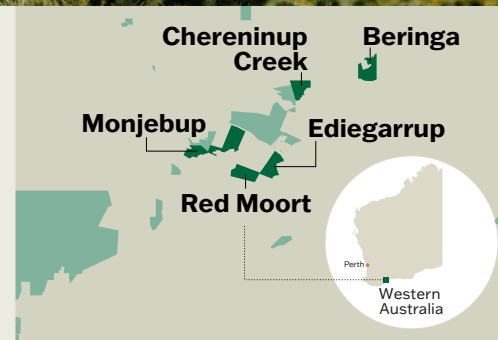
Bush Heritage
Australia

Our vision

We are enhancing landscape connectivity across the Fitz-Stirling region through protection, restoration, and supportive management.

The Fitz-Stirling region of southwest Western Australia is one of 36 globally significant biodiversity hotspots: areas where “exceptional concentrations of endemic species are undergoing exceptional loss of habitat”. Since the 1960s, land clearing has led to the loss of over 70% of native vegetation.

Bush Heritage has worked in this landscape for over two decades to restore and reconnect Country. Our reserves are part of a network of conservation properties aiming to restore landscape connectivity, create habitat, and build resilience in the face of climate change impacts.



Reserve size: 6,276 hectares

Acquisition year: 2003 onwards

Traditional Custodian:
Goreng Noongar

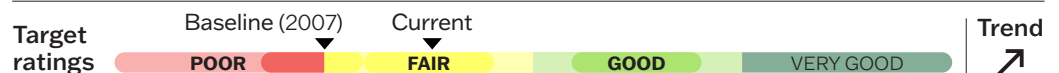
Our conservation targets

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.



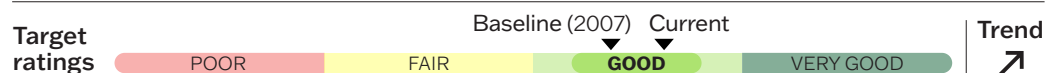
Mallee heath and Black-gloved Wallaby

Since 2017, eight hectares of infill planting has been completed. Monjebup North achieved a 4.2-star restoration standard. Remnant mallee heath is in very good condition. Banksia senescence in some areas may require prescribed burns to support regeneration.



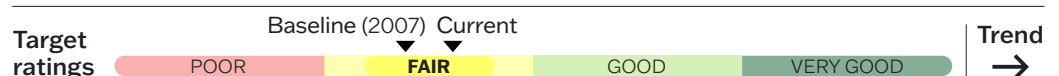
Mallet and moort woodlands and Tammar Wallaby

Mallet and moort woodlands provide habitat for Tammar Wallabies, which depend on long unburnt areas of scrub. In 2021, 40% of woodland monitoring sites recorded wallabies. In 2022, we acquired Ediegarrup and boosted this vegetation community by over 100 hectares.



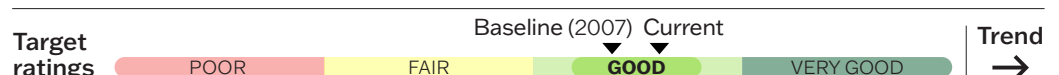
Creeks and Flat-topped Yate woodlands

Creeks and river pools provide habitat for threatened birds, turtles, frogs, and small mammals and are associated with Flat-topped Yate. Long-term monitoring shows variable condition of age classes in yate communities. Factors could include a lack of disturbance events and salinity in creek lines.



Granite outcrops and freshwater

Granite outcrops are widespread, occurring along creeks and higher in the landscape providing likely habitat for several freshwater-dependent short-range endemics. Expert support is needed to identify meaningful indicators and establish baseline surveys.



Managing threats

Threat	Recent rating	Trend	Resource investment	What are we doing?
Feral cats and foxes	MEDIUM	↗	👤👤👤 \$\$\$	Landscape scale, multi-tenure control efforts were successfully funded and implemented across twenty-five properties as part of the Fitz-Stirling Fauna Recovery Program. Techniques include shooting, baiting, and trapping and are ongoing to reduce predation pressure on native fauna.
Invasive herbivores	MEDIUM	↘	👤👤👤 \$\$	Targeted rabbit control work including baiting, shooting, and biological control methods were initiated as part of the Fitz-Stirling Fauna Recovery Program in 2020. This has seen periods of success and is ongoing to combat this highly efficient species.
Inappropriate fire	MEDIUM	→	👤👤 \$\$	No wildfires were recorded during the reporting period. Preventative measures such as firebreak maintenance, firefighting equipment maintenance, and capacity building are ongoing to ensure these risks are minimised for all reserves.
Climate change	MEDIUM	↗	👤 \$\$	Creating connectivity between large bushland areas builds species' resilience and reduces the edge effect within the landscape. Our restoration uses locally-sourced seed, a technique deemed the best approach to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
Weeds	LOW	→	👤 \$	Weeds are having a limited impact on native flora. Infestation areas which have previously been treated are monitored and vigilance is needed to ensure these species do not reappear.

Strategy highlight:

Monitoring and research

Targeted flora surveys have highlighted the extraordinary conservation value and diversity of the Fitz-Stirling region. To date, over 1,000 native taxa have been recorded, with over one quarter of these taxa occurring at range limits. Some perspective on just how diverse the Bush Heritage reserves are can be gauged by comparison with the Fitz-Stirling River National Park. The 1,000 taxa recorded across 5,622 ha of Bush Heritage Reserves and partner properties represents 66% of taxa recorded in the national park, across only 2% of its area.



5
Threatened
flora
species



2
Threatened
bird species



134
Bird
species



24
Native
mammal
species



48
Reptile
species



9,193
Volunteer hours
(since 2017)

Bush Heritage acknowledges the Traditional Custodian 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.