

# Bon Bon Station Reserve

Scorecard 2009 - 2019



## Our vision

To manage and enhance the health of ecological and cultural values on Bon Bon, and to undertake projects that enhance these values beyond the confines of the reserve.

Bon Bon was managed for over 100 years as a sheep station until acquisition by Bush Heritage in 2008 to secure the protection of Mulga and Western Myall woodlands. Protection of native vegetation on Bon Bon contributes to the provision of refugia for native species, healthy ecosystem function, and connectivity across the landscape.

Reserve size: 216,700 hectares  
 Acquisition year: 2008  
 Traditional Owners: Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara 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.



### Mulga woodland on sandy plains

Bon Bon supports large areas of Mulga woodland – a state-listed threatened ecosystem and rated as vulnerable. This provides habitat for arid-zone reptiles, small mammals, and insect- and seed-eating birds. Between 2009 and 2019, soil surface cover and overall vegetation condition improved and there is evidence of recruitment across the reserve.



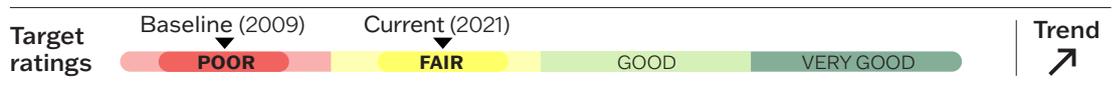
### Western Myall over Pearl Bluebush

Western Myall provides habitat for litter-dependent reptiles and a diverse range of birds. Since destocking, aspects of target health, such as leaf-litter cover, have improved, however, recovery of palatable species and structural complexity is expected to take several decades. Pearl Bluebush and Myall recruits are evident across the reserve.



### Chenopod shrublands

Chenopod shrublands cover the northern portion of Bon Bon and provide habitat for species such as the SA-endemic Chestnut-breasted Whiteface. The shrublands were heavily impacted by past pastoral activity. Palatable perennial grasses are returning to many areas previously impacted by sheep.



### Labyrinth land systems and ephemeral wetlands

Wetlands and lake systems are focal points. They are an important wildlife corridor, supporting several invertebrate fauna communities of interest, as well as significant cultural values. Wetlands provide core habitat for birds during wet years and refugia in drought.



# Managing threats

Threat	Recent rating	Trend	Resource investment	What are we doing?
<b>Total grazing pressure</b>	HIGH	↘	👤👤💰	Rabbit warrens mapped (>36% of reserve) with ripping/fumigation treatment. Decommissioning water points and maintaining boundary fences to manage total grazing pressure.
<b>Feral predators</b> (foxes and feral cats)	MEDIUM	→	👤👤👤💰	Integrated management (since 2016) has resulted in a sustained reduction of foxes in a core area of 40km <sup>2</sup> . Baiting at 1,865 permanent bait stations across the property; monitored by 96 camera traps. Fox and cat tracking studies are underway to direct targeted baiting.
<b>Erosion</b>	MEDIUM	→	👤👤👤💰	Decommissioning unrequired tracks and maintenance of tracks has helped to reduce erosion. Brushpacking/filters/check banks (e.g. Old Stuart Highway) have slowed water flow and supported rehydration.
<b>Buffel Grass</b>	MEDIUM	↗	👤👤👤💰	Small infestations treated immediately (chemical/mechanical), major infestations treated post-rainfall (in-house or contractor) has helped to contain infestations. Monitoring completed every 5 years.
<b>Wildfire</b>	LOW	→	Ongoing vigilance	There have been no wildfires on the reserve since acquisition. Maintenance of fire breaks (track network) is completed annually. Track grooming and grading regularly.

## Strategy highlight:

# Buffel Grass

Buffel Grass is a major threat on Bon Bon. Since acquisition considerable work undertaken on the reserve has been instrumental in local and regional efforts to control buffel. This has included active participation in the SA Buffel Grass Taskforce, chemical trials in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, and coordinated control along the Stuart Highway.

On Bon Bon, we have established extensive monitoring sites along key pathways for infestation including creeklines and tracks. Ongoing monitoring and demonstration of effective management will continue to contribute to efforts in the region to minimise the impact of this invasive species.



**387**

Threatened flora species



**18**

Threatened bird species



**144**

Total bird species



**21**

Native mammal species



**55**

Reptile species



**30**

Invertebrate species



**9**

BHA supported research projects completed (6 underway)



**24,613**

Volunteer hours (since 2017)

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.