

Araluen zieria

Zieria adenophora
Endangered

Target: protect the species from browsing by feral goats and bolster the natural population through plantings

This *Saving our Species* (SoS) project has reduced the decline of Araluen zieria (*Zieria adenophora*) through the management of threats from feral goats and enhancement plantings. Only known from one small site overlooking the Araluen Valley, south of Braidwood, actions to protect this small shrub commenced in the late 1990s and a national recovery plan was approved by 2003. Fencing was installed in 2001 to exclude feral goats, which has remained effective ever since. The main management action of this project has been maintenance of the fences and enhancement plantings within the site to support the natural population. This project is led by the SoS program in partnership with the Australian National Botanic Gardens who have been collecting seed for storage in the seed bank and growing plants for the enhancement planting.

Monitoring has determined that there has not been a major recruitment event since the late 1990s, causing the adult population to steadily decline as existing plants die from old age and drought. Following good rainfall since March 2020 which broke a three-year drought, hundreds of seedlings had recruited by the winter of 2020. Annual monitoring in May 2021 found a total of 541 seedlings surviving, which had grown to between 5 and 15 cm in height. It is hoped this new cohort of seedlings will be able to develop to maturity with the ongoing exclusion of feral goats, and that the highly concerning population decline will be reversed.

Trajectory: decreasing

The decline of this species is almost certainly less than it would have been in the absence of drought-breaking rains and management, as goats would have destroyed the habitat for this species.

Note: survivorship of the new cohort may be low.

