

**WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM
RECOVERY TEAM**

ANNUAL REPORT

1998

by

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for

The Western Ringtail Possum Recovery Team

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SUMMARY

The Interim Recovery Plan (IRP) for the Western Ringtail was approved on 27 March 1998. Routine management of Western Ringtail has continued, especially in relation to the management of derelict animals and populations threatened by urban development. CALM is preparing a detailed review of the conservation status of the Western Ringtail Possum, so that the Recovery Team can consider whether the species might be eligible for removal from the WA List of Threatened Fauna.

INTRODUCTION

The Western Ringtail Possum Recovery Team was set up in 1995. It did not meet during 1998.

Recovery Team membership is as follows:

Dr Andrew Burbidge (chair)	CALM WATSCU
Mr Peter Collins	CALM South Coast Region
Mr Bob Hagan	CALM Southern Forest Region
Dr Ric How	Western Australian Museum
Mr David Mitchell	CALM Swan Region
Mr Paul de Tores	CALM Science & Information Division
Mr Kim Williams	CALM Central Forest Region

RECOVERY PLAN STATUS

The preparation of an Interim Recovery Plan (IRP) for the Western Ringtail commenced during 1996. A second draft was circulated among Team members in September 1997. The Director of Nature Conservation approved the IRP on 27 March 1998.

MANAGEMENT

Routine management of Western Ringtail has continued, especially in relation to the management of derelict animals and populations threatened by urban development.

TRANSLOCATIONS

There were no new translocations of Western Ringtails during 1998; however, additional rehabilitated possums were released at Lane Poole Conservation Park. Translocations carried out in previous years were monitored, but there is insufficient information at present to confirm success.

RESEARCH

The Western Ringtail Possum is one of several species of threatened mammals that are subject to research as part of the Kingston Study.

CONSERVATION STATUS

The Western Ringtail Possum is currently ranked as 'Vulnerable' according to IUCN (1994) Red List Criteria. Paul de Tores (CALM Science Division) is preparing a detailed review of the conservation status of the Western Ringtail Possum, so that the Recovery Team can consider whether the species might be eligible for removal from the WA List of Threatened Fauna.