



SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name	Dibbler Recovery Team	
Reporting Period (Financial Year)	Financial Year 2007/08	
Current membership		
	Member	Representing
1. Chair	Dr Tony Friend	Supervising Scientist, Dibbler project, DEC Science Division
2.	Tim Button	Dibbler Technical Officer, DEC Science Division
3.	Roberta Bencini	Research student supervisor, University of WA
4.	Peter Collins	South Coast Region, DEC
6.	Rebecca Carter	Midwest Region, DEC
7.	Geoff Burrow	Malleefowl Preservation Group
8.	Vic Smith	South Coast community
9.	Jeremy Carter	Jurien Bay Community
10.	Helen Robertson	Director Animal Health and Research, Perth Zoo
11.	Peter Orell	Species and Communities Branch
12.	Dr Tony Start	Scientist with expertise in dibblers
13.	Dr Pat Woolley	Scientist with expertise in dibblers (corresponding)
14.	Dr Chris Dickman	Scientist with expertise in dibblers (corresponding)
15.	Dr Dorian Moro	Scientist with expertise in dibblers (corresponding)
Dates meetings were held	10 December 2007 and 12 May 2008	
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU	Discovery of new dibbler sites in the central and eastern Fitzgerald River NP; a large wildfire that affected thousands of hectares in the western FRNP; and the commencement of a new study to examine the feasibility of eradicating the house mouse from Boullanger and Whitlock	

	<p>Islands, off Jurien Bay.</p> <p>Dibbler population monitoring and fox control targets were met, and the Recovery Plan success criteria were also met.</p>
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from actions in Recovery Plan)	
Action 1 Monitoring	<p>Monitoring of the two Western Shield transects in the Fitzgerald River NP (FRNP) showed that numbers were still high in 2007/08.</p> <p>Population numbers on Boullanger and Whitlock Islands are high. Numbers on Escape Island have fallen each year since 2006. King's skink numbers on Escape Island have increased and this may have affected dibbler trappability.</p>
Action 2 Habitat Management	<p>Fox control was carried out on all known mainland dibbler population sites by aerial and ground baiting four times a year under the Western Shield program. Supplementary monthly ground baiting is carried out at Peniup and the Stirling Range dibbler release site.</p> <p>A wildfire affecting around 15% of the FRNP was contained.</p>
Action 3 Survey	<p>Dibbler surveys in FRNP in 2007/08 involved the use of large numbers of hair-funnels placed along management tracks. Two surveys were carried out in the Wilderness Area of the FRNP during the year, and one along the Quoin Head track. Previously unknown dibbler colonies were discovered in several areas, both within and outside the Wilderness Area. Surveys in spring have proved much more successful than at any other time of year. These surveys will be continued in spring 2008/09.</p>
Action 4 Captive breeding	<p>The breeding colony at Perth Zoo has produced 28 dibblers.</p>
Action 5 Translocation	<p>Peniup proposed NR: Releases of 40-50 captive-bred dibblers were carried out in Peniup in 2001, 2002 and 2003 and the population grew steadily until winter 2005 when it crashed. Some recovery was evident after baiting frequency was increased in 2005, but very few dibblers were captured in Peniup in 2007 and 2008. The recovery team has supported the release of 40 dibblers in Peniup in October 2008, including all available zoo-bred young supplemented by dibblers from FRNP.</p> <p>Stirling Range National Park: A fourth release, of 40 captive-bred dibblers, was carried out in October 2007. However, in two monitoring sessions since then, no newly released dibblers were captured. The recovery team decided not to release further dibblers in FRNP in 2008 but concentrate on the Peniup translocation as it had been more promising. Monitoring by trapping and hair-funnels will continue in SRNP in 2008/09.</p> <p>West Coast site: A proposed translocation to a west coast site has been cancelled due to lack of a suitable site. Recent attempted mammal reintroductions into Nambung NP have not been successful and there is not local support for further reintroductions into the District until extra resources for baiting are provided.</p>
Action 6 Genetics	<p>DNA samples are collected from each dibbler handled but no analysis has been carried out since 2001.</p>
Action 7 Community	<p>Members of the local community participated in recovery team</p>

involvement	meetings.
Action 8 Research	A three-year population study has continued at a newly discovered dibbler site with all-weather access in the eastern FRNP. This site provides comparative data against which population parameters in reintroduced populations may be assessed.