



## RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

### THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team      Muirs Corella

Reporting Period      Calendar year 2011

#### Current membership

Please include email addresses as we would like updated contact details for recovery team members

Also please include vacant positions and regular guests

Member		Representing
1. Chair	Brad Barton	DEC Warren Region
2. Exec Officer	Brianna Wingfield (replaces Holly Smith)	DEC Species and Communities Branch
3.	Ian Wilson	DEC Donnelly District
4	Kim Williams	DEC South West Region
5.	Christine Cooper	Birdlife Australia
6	Katie Watson (now vacant in 2012)	DEC Wheatbelt Region
7	Rick Dawson	DEC Nature Protection Branch
8	Ron Johnstone	Western Australian Museum
9	Peter Mawson (now replaced by Amy Mutton)	Species and Communities Branch
10	Gary Martin	Dept. Agriculture and Food
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Dates meetings were held		10 June 2011 and 4 November 2011

One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for <i>WATSNU</i>	<p>The muirs corella count was a great success in 2011 with 53 properties being surveyed (including 29 self-count properties). Approximately 16000 birds were counted across is current know range. This is an increase on the 2009 count of 12947 corellas. Warren Region will continue to undertake these surveys every two years..</p> <p>Muirs Corellas continue to have impact on properties and communities in the tone bridge, Frankland River area with birds feeding on freshly sown cereal crops, causing damage to gardens and infrastructure. DEC continues in it's attempts to find alternative techniques to deter birds.</p>
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team member/s	
<b>Task 1. Ian Wilson and Peter Mawson:</b> Ian Wilson to provide GIS shape files to Peter Mawson.	The data will be collated from the WAM, BA and DEC regional sighting records and provided to SCB. SCB will create a shapefile from this to illustrate survey coverage and Muir's Corella distribution map coded by source ( <b>Task 1 arising</b> ).
<b>Task 2. Peter Mawson and Christine Cooper:</b> report on the third year project to examine the proportion of land converted to blue gum and paddock tree retention	<p>Two students have worked on this project over two separate years. All the analysis is completed and two good quality reports have been produced (showing the same thing across all breeding habitat). Christine Cooper and Peter Mawson are preparing a manuscript for publication at present.</p> <p>Trends: 40-60% nesting habitat has been removed due to blue gums, as the species avoids plantations of densely planted trees.</p> <p>A draft manuscript confirming and explaining these findings will be circulated to recovery team next meeting (<b>Task 2 arising</b>).</p>
<b>Task 3. Ian Wilson:</b> follow up with Gordon Wyre on status of approval to add Katie Watson (DEC Narrogin) to the recovery team.	DNC gave approval for Katie Watson to be added to the Recovery team in December 2010.
<b>Task 4. Ian Wilson:</b> contact farmers to determine crop rotation of blue gums.	<p>Some contact made. With recent economic changes within the tree cropping industry there appear to be less opportunities available for establishment of new plantations. A number of farmers are not considering second rotation. Ongoing.</p> <p>(<b>Task 3 arising</b>)</p>
<b>Task 5. Ian Wilson:</b> determine if NRM groups had recorded the location and condition of revegetated habitat on private property.	<p>Warren Catchment Council has investigated opportunities for projects to survey/monitor remnant vegetation on private lands. Some funding available to commence in areas directly associated with the Perup Nature Reserve. DEC has conducted some plotting and condition monitoring of rehabilitated areas within the Muir/Unicup Recovery Catchment similar to the Big links project that Blackwood did in 2010.</p> <p>(<b>Task 4 arising</b>)</p>
<b>Task 6. Ron Johnstone:</b> email annual monitoring results to Peter Mawson	No monitoring done. This task is complete.
<b>Task 7. Peter Mawson:</b> to report on introduced corella control operations with the City of Bunbury and Shire of Busselton	Both the Shire and City have damage licences to allow shooting. The City has shot ca. 40 birds only. DEC staff from SCB have visited both locations and advised on feeding protocols with a view to trapping using jelly rubber hoop nets. A trapping session is planned at each location

	<p>during the second week in June. In Busselton ca. 100 (of 300) in single catch, followup catch needed. Gasing technique no longer suitable and must be shot and this is increasing the time of operations. Isofluorane was suggested to sedate the birds prior to euthanasia. Albany flock has been reported and needs to be eradicated. Limited funds were available for DEC to do work. Special NC and new project funding application submitted to continue operations with 2 staff required.</p> <p>Update next meeting on status of funding application, resolution of animal ethics issues and whether prohibiting the import of corellas was successful <b>(Task 5 arising)</b>.</p> <p>Pricing of isofluorane to be investigated <b>(Task 6 arising)</b>.</p>
<b>Task 8. Ian Wilson:</b> submit an article on success of the Muir's recovery program to WATSNU editors Jill Pryde or Sue Downes by end of April 2011	<p>First draft of article released.</p> <p>Final article to be circulated to the committee and added to species file <b>(Task 7 arising)</b></p>
<b>Task 9. Ian Wilson:</b> write and issue a media release on results of the Muir's Corella count	<p>An article written with DECMedia for Franklandia (Frankland Community Newsletter) and DECmatters. This task is complete.</p>
<b>Task 10. Ian Wilson:</b> report on results of the Feb/March annual census	<p>Ian gave a powerpoint presentation and update on the annual Muir's Corella census including the increase in counts and an overview of survey effort. Issues with some landholders not being retained in the community monitoring program were discussed. The distribution of the species and the expansion to the west and east since the population has increased was highlighted. Task complete.</p>
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>Community representation on Recovery Team</b></p> <p>Marion Massam (DAFWA) queried the awareness raised to limit damage and requested that community membership be considered and pursued by DEC. Ian Wilson explained that whilst there was some interest to be involved they were not willing to attend meetings. It was decided there would be no representative at meetings but the community would continue to be engaged and remain active.</p> <p>Julia Wayne Region DEC has discussed information provided to community as part of the online DEC publications (mail out booklets) and info is on WAM and DEC website. No further action required.</p> <p><b>Public complaints Frankland</b></p> <p>Members of the public have been lobbying the Minister of Agriculture and suggesting new methods of scaring the birds to be considered. Sound deterrents such as gas guns and washing down lines and conductors (as done by Western Power) was requested and that a helicopter could be used. The team discussed the options and feel that these mitigation measures for Muir's corellas are questionable ethically and ineffective as the flocks will only be deterred temporarily and impact on adjacent areas, additionally it would be very expensive operationally.</p> <p>Mitigation has been done over 5 years by DEC using different approaches. Some suggestions include sacrificial crops, underground wiring to prevent destruction of overhead wiring and gas guns that are mobile this has been effective for deterring black cockatoos from orchards. No further action required.</p> <p><b>DAFWA team representative</b></p> <p>Replacement for Marion Massam as she has resigned from DAFWA.</p>

DEC to request new representative from DAFWA.

Peter Mawson to write to Gary Gray (DAFWA) inviting new representative **(Task arising 8)**.

Next meeting Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November **Chair appointment**

Ian Wilson has stepped down as chair and Brad Barton will assume this role.

#### **2012 Corella count**

Proposed to occur in March 2012 (challenge with the community)

Community not supporting DEC's survey efforts which is resulting in property access issues

DEC to run Corella count with assistance from BA and WAM to engage community and get better uptake/support. **(Task 8 arising)**

#### **Mitigation and deterrents**

Mark Blythman suggested the following to move the flock to another area

- Remote control helicopter
- Strobe lights

(Task 8 arising, Mark to research strobes)

Brad to purchase a strobes to test proof of concept and monitor numbers before and after and time that they are away from roost

Other suggestions included

Raptor playbacks calls and real helicopter but it was suggested these would be ineffective or costly.

SCB to provide corellas (Muir's corellas road kill or introduced corellas taken in management program) to WAM for research into disease and for specimens for collection **(Task 9 arising)**

#### **Birdlife Australia**

Cheryl Gole will now represent Birdlife Australia on this recovery team and Christine Cooper will remain a recovery team representative representing Universities.