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Return of the Australian Hollyhock (*Malva preissiana*) to Perth's off shore islands.

Malva preissiana or Australian Hollyhock is restricted to offshore islands around the western and southern coasts of Australia. With a life cycle linked to that of nesting seabirds it grows specifically in their guano deposits. The habitat is nutrient rich, continually disturbed by seabird trampling and highly susceptible to weed invasion. The species is considered vulnerable in Victoria and competition from weeds has had a major impact on populations on Islands off the coast of Perth. In recent decades *M. preissiana* has gone extinct from Rottnest, Green, Bird, Seal, and Penguin Islands. Carnac Island and Shag Islands now support the only populations of *M. preissiana* in the region. Over the last five years seed has been collected from the Carnac Island population and stored at the Department of Parks and Wildlife Threatened Flora Seed Centre.

The type collection for *M. preissiana* was from Penguin Island in 1839 but unfortunately the species disappeared from there sometime in the 1970s. In 2014 a series of trials were initiated on Penguin Island investigating effective establishment techniques for the reintroduction of *M. preissiana*. The results indicate direct seeding into the guano deposits of recently vacated Pelican roosts can result in establishment of adult plants as long as weeds are managed in the early stages of establishment. Plants flowered and set prolific amounts of seed in the second year of the trials. The study provided a management framework for the reintroduction of *M. preissiana* to Perth's offshore Islands and is part of a larger restoration plan for Penguin Island. The next phase of the project will involve acquiring resources to scale up the trials and through an adaptive management process, work towards re-establishing self-sustaining populations on Penguin Island.



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