



RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT				
THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM				
<b>Recovery Team</b>	Black-flanked Rock Wallabies			
<b>Reporting Period</b> Submission date 24 April	<b>DATE FROM:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	<b>DATE TO:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
Current membership				
	Member	Representing		
<b>Co-chair</b>	David Pearson	DPaW – Science Division		
<b>Co-chair</b>	Kath Howard	WWF		
<b>Exec Officer</b>	Abby Thomas	DPaW – Species and Communities		
<b>Members</b>	Alicia Whittington	DPaW – Pilbara Region		
	Anthony Desmond	DPaW – Midwest Region		
	Bob Huston	DPaW – Perth Hills		
	Bryony Palmer	AWC		
	Craig Pentland	Researcher		
	Jennifer Jackson	DPaW – Goldfields region		
	Jess Koleck / Alexander Watson	WWF Kimberley		
	Juanita Renwick	DPaW – Sustainable Ecosystem Management Division		
	Laura Ruykys	AWC		
	Matthew Prophet	DPaW – Exmouth district		
	Natasha Moore	DPaW – Central Wheatbelt		
	Nicole Willers	DPaW – Swan Region		
	Rebecca Ong/ Rebecca Kay	DPaW – Perth Hills		



	Rowan Heggulun	Wheatbelt NRM
	Sarah Comer	DPaW – South Coast
	Scott van Barneveld	Kimberley Land Council
<b>Dates meetings were held</b>	March 4 and September 1, 2014	
<b>Highlights of achievements</b> for the previous 12 months suitable for publication in <i>WATSNU</i> and contribution to DEC annual report. Provide 1-2 paragraphs summarising total number of new populations located, surveys completed, list major management actions etc	<p>Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa rangers and Department staff from Karratha located several new populations of black-flanked rock-wallabies in the Little Sandy Desert</p> <p>Monitoring of rock-wallaby populations in Cape Range, Mondrain and Salisbury Islands revealed robust populations, while in the Wheatbelt populations appeared static or slightly increasing after recent population declines.</p> <p>Monitoring of the translocated rock-wallaby population at Jilikurru indicates that they have expanded beyond their release sites and are persisting.</p> <p>WWF ran a successful fund-raising appeal that enable support of population surveys and translocations in the Wheatbelt.</p>	
<p><b>List of recovery actions coordinated by Recovery Team</b></p> <p>Detail under the headings below the recovery actions undertaken during the reporting period. Provide separate detail for each species/community against each action. For species/community-specific recovery teams, the generic activity types below can be replaced by the specific recovery actions from the recovery plan where appropriate.</p>		
<b>Monitoring and survey</b> of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.	<p>Monitoring was conducted at several black-flanked rock wallaby populations within WA, employing trapping, remote cameras and faecal pellet counts.</p> <p>AWC analysed the past five years of trapping data at Paruna and found that there was an observed decline in population numbers and no establishment of young at heel. Population estimate of 8 individuals in 2014.</p> <p>South Coast region surveyed Salisbury and Mondrain Islands in Nov 2014. Three individuals were trapped on Salisbury and four on Mondrain and genetic samples collected</p> <p>Pilbara Region in collaboration with Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa Rangers surveyed for BFRW using remote cameras in the Fingoon Range (Bilgunmarina and Mt Eva), McKay Ranges (Yulpul), GJ Bore, East Purnngurr Range. BFRW were confirmed at Bilgunmarina, Yulpul, East Purnngurr and GJ Bore, new locations for the species. The Jilikurru translocated population was re-trapped, with F1 individuals plus young at foot and sub-adults captured.</p>	



	<p>Exmouth district conducted spot surveys between June 2013 and August 2014 around the NW Cape, Ningaloo Station, Yardie Creek and Cape Range NP, and 158 individual RWs were observed. Weekly monitoring continued in Yardie Creek Gorge by the local tour operator.</p> <p>Wheatbelt Region with the financial aid of WWF conducted follow up surveys of translocated Wheatbelt populations between October and December 2014. The results are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nangeen Hill NR up from 22 (5 original + 17 translocated from Querekin) in 2013 to 39 trapped individuals in Oct 2014 (1 subsequently predated by a wedgetail).</li> <li>- Mt Caroline NR from 80+ individuals in 2012 + 21 introduced from Querekin in 2013 to 100 in Nov 2014.</li> <li>- Sales Rock up from 14 in 2013 to 27 in Dec 2014. 2 RW moved to Sales from Mt Stirling in 2013 were not re-trapped.</li> <li>- Gundaring NR from 12 in 2013 to 15 in Dec 2014.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threat amelioration</b> eg weed control/mapping, fencing/ repairs, fire management disease management, feral/ introduced animal control, installation of roadside markers</p>	<p>Threat amelioration implemented by the members of the recovery team to limit the impact on RWs include the use of Eradicat in the Exmouth area and Jilikurru and Kaalpi ranges and continued Probait use at Western shield sites and Paruna sanctuary. Additional ground baiting in key turtle rookeries was undertaken along the NW Cape by the Exmouth district, as telemetry studies indicated that foxes utilised both species habitats. There was continued feral herbivore control (goats – 630 in the Midwest region, camels and pig – 40 from the Midwest region), in the Perth Hills and prescribed burns around key populations in the Jilikurru and Kaalpi ranges and at Paruna Sanctuary.</p> <p>Cameras inside the Nangeen Hill failed to detect any foxes and cats, but Probait are still being laid until it is clear that feral pests have been removed.</p>
<p><b>Conservation and research</b> e.g. fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc.</p>	<p>Genetic analysis of rock wallaby samples was conducted by Mark Eldridge and Kym Otewell with funding from DPaW and WWF. The key points noted from the results were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversity within individual BFRW population is moderate to low.</li> <li>- However, differentiation amongst regional populations is high, so each population contains significant genetic diversity.</li> <li>- Relationship amongst regional populations should be further investigated (mtDNA study).</li> <li>- Wheatbelt populations are partially differentiated, but all most similar to each.</li> <li>- Given small population sizes, Wheatbelt populations should be</li> </ul>



	<p>managed as a single entity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- However, there is unique diversity present in most Wheatbelt populations., requiring careful selection of individuals for translocation..</li> <li>- Unique diversity at Mt Stirling and Kokerbin is in danger of being lost.</li> <li>- Diversity in some population is low and they may require supplementation.</li> <li>- The situation is highly dynamic and some populations' genetic profiles are changing over short periods of time.</li> <li>- Most Wheatbelt populations have lost diversity over the last 20 years.</li> <li>- The issue of ongoing genetic erosion was discussed by the recovery team and needs further attention.</li> </ul> <p>Craig Pentland's PhD thesis was published and made available; 'Behavioural ecology of the black-flanked rock-wallaby (<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>); refuge importance in a variable environment' it can be downloaded from: <a href="http://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses/1283/">http://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses/1283/</a></p>
<p><b>Liaison, education/provision of advice</b> e.g. promotional material inc newspaper/ magazine articles, liaison with land managers/ owners, input to impact assessment, development of specific management plans, volunteers assisting with surveys/ monitoring etc.</p>	<p>Some key projects or instances when volunteers or the community were directly involve in the management of RWs in 2014 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa have installed interpretation panels at Jilikurru with one panel providing information regarding the translocation of BFRW to the area</li> <li>- Continued involvement by Kanyirninpa Jukurrpar rangers based at Jigalong with the Jilikurru and Kaalpi populations</li> <li>- Strong involvement of Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa rangers from Parnngurr in surveying for new populations Finggon Ranges and other rangers in area</li> <li>- Hale School deployed a transect of six remote cameras across Cape Range which may potentially pick up new rock-wallaby populations.</li> </ul> <p>Education and promotional information included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WWF ran a third rock wallaby fundraising appeal through their supporter network. These funds were used to survey populations within the Wheatbelt region and support the translocation of animals from Querekin Rock.</li> <li>- September 7<sup>th</sup> was National Threatened Species Day. WWF highlighted BFRWs and nabarleks in media releases, as some of their key species for the day. The NTSD 'Mysterious Macropods' story was picked up by <a href="http://www.news.com.au">News.com.au</a>, the <a href="http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au">Townsville Bulletin</a>, <a href="http://www.yahoo.com">Yahoo News</a>, the <a href="http://www.cairns.com.au">Cairns Post</a>, the <a href="http://www.dailyexaminer.com.au">Daily Examiner</a> (Grafton, NSW), the <a href="http://www.sundayexaminer.com.au">Sunday Examiner</a> (Launceston, TAS),</li> </ul>



	the <a href="#">Sunday Tasmanian</a> and <a href="#">SkyNews.com.au</a> and the <a href="#">China Post</a> .
<b>Land use/tenure changes</b> e.g. covenants, acquisitions, changes in land use or listed purpose etc.	N/a
<b>Conservation status reviews for taxa/TECs</b> e.g. nominations for additions, deletions or change in status to state threatened or priority lists; changes to EPBC list	N/A
<b>Recovery plans</b> e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated	N/A
<b>Other actions completed</b>	