

<b>RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT</b> <b>THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM</b>				
<b>Recovery Team</b>	Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team			
<b>Reporting Period</b> Submission date 24 April	<b>DATE FROM:</b>	<b>1 January 2014</b>	<b>DATE TO:</b>	<b>31 March 2015</b>
Current membership				
	Member	Representing		
<b>Chair</b>	Sarah Comer	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, South Coast Region		
<b>Exec Officer</b>	Stephanie Hill	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division.		
<b>members</b>	Tony Friend	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division.		
	Manda Page	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Species and Communities Branch		
	Tim Button	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division.		
	Ron Dorn	Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.		
	Val Hack	Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.		
	David Taggart	University of Adelaide		
	Jackie Courtenay	Consultant Wildlife Biologist (corresponding member)		
	Alan Needham	Edith Cowan University, Applied Science (corresponding member)		
	Vic Smith	Retired veterinarian, South Coast Community member (deceased September 2014)		
	Dave Edmonds	Veterinarian, Denmark Veterinary Practice.		
	Brad Barton	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Warren Region		



<b>Dates meetings were held</b>	2 May 2014 & 2 December 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>After the successes of the Gilbert's potoroo recovery program over the last few years, events in 2014 have been less positive. Decreasing potoroo numbers at both Two Peoples Bay and the Waychinicup enclosure have been investigated by deploying tail transmitters at all trapping sessions. This research has shown that carpet pythons are a significant predator of potoroos at both sites.</p> <p>Financial support from the Albany-based community group, the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group, has been vital to the continuation of the recovery program for the world's rarest marsupial.</p> <p>The Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team was saddened by the passing in September 2014 of Dr Vic Smith, a foundation member of the team. Vic made a great contribution as a South Coast community representative on several recovery teams and will be missed.</p>
<b>List of recovery actions coordinated by Recovery Team</b> 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.	
<b>Monitoring and survey</b> of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.	<p>Population biology of Gilbert's potoroo at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve is monitored through four-monthly census on nine regular traplines, in March, June, and November and an annual census on the Mount Gardner transect in October. These traplines cover about 75% of good potoroo habitat at Two Peoples Bay. Until now, potoroo numbers have remained stable despite the removal of 10 individuals between 2005 and 2007. In the last year, however, numbers captured in regular monitoring have dropped from 20-30 to around 10 individuals.</p> <p>Nine potoroos were captured in March 2014 (5 females, 4 males), 7 in June-July 2014 (5 females, 2 males) and 8 (5 females and 3 males) during the November 2014 trapping.</p> <p>In order to investigate this decline, tail transmitters were fitted in the March and November 2014 trapping sessions at Two Peoples Bay. Six potoroos were fitted with transmitters in March and all survived the 4-6 weeks before the transmitters fell off, while of the 10 fitted in November, two were taken by carpet pythons.</p> <p>A female potoroo bred in the Ryedene enclosure was fitted with a transmitter and released at Two Peoples Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 but she was killed shortly before 29<sup>th</sup> October by a fox. Following this event, fox control at Two Peoples Bay was reviewed and trapping will be used as well as baiting (see below).</p>



<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>The Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team has expressed support for the proposed prescribed burn at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and requested that it be placed on the priority list for winter 2015, with funds allocated for monitoring and increased predator control.</p> <p>To date research under the Integrated Fauna Recovery Project (IFRP) has found that cats are using a lot of area in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve. These data will be analysed to look at areas of concentrated activity. The cats' activity appears to be diurnal with peak activity occurring during sunrise and sunset.</p> <p>The IFRP team has maintained the camera grid on Mt Gardner. A grid of fifteen cameras without lures has been established and is currently being monitored for a period of six months. There have been a number of cat events (a detection of a cat with an hour between sightings) at the Sinker Reef camera. The cats are highly distinctive due to their 'non-tabby' marking, such as black cat with white socks. Foxes are not being detected when lures are not present. Trapping trials have been conducted using NERDS versus buckets and different lures.</p> <p>As Mt Gardner is no longer an experimental site all foxes and cats captured will be euthanased. Trapping for foxes and cats will be used in conjunction with Eradicat baiting. There may also be scope to conduct more work on the adjacent farmland.</p>
<p><b>Conservation and research</b> e.g. fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc.</p>	<p><b>Bald Island:</b></p> <p>The translocation of Gilbert's potoroos to Bald Island commenced in 2005 and the population has been steadily growing since then.</p> <p>A field trip was carried out in June 2014 to census the Bald Island potoroo population. Fifty individuals were captured during this trip, down from 61 in July 2013. It may be that the island population is falling to match the long-term carrying capacity. There is now evidence that potoroos have colonised the less suitable northern half of the island. They are now being caught on traplines very close to camp, near the middle of the island. In June 2014, six cameras were set up on a grid with points 1 km apart, in the untrapped part of the island north of the camp, in areas that did not appear to provide potoroo habitat. The cameras were collected in September 2014 and revealed potoroos in all these areas. It is encouraging to see that potoroos are utilising different habitats.</p> <p>The previous translocation from Bald Island to the Waychinicup enclosure occurred in October 2012. In July 2014, 12 more potoroos were fitted with transmitters, flown from Bald Island to the enclosure and released. The funding for the trip (supplies, helicopter and tail transmitters) was provided by GPAG.</p> <p><b>Waychinicup NP enclosure:</b></p> <p>Within two weeks of the July 2014 potoroo translocation, three had been taken by carpet pythons and one potoroo's skeletal remains were</p>



	<p>found in a creek. A proposal to remove some carpet pythons from the enclosure has now been approved. The proposal to remove pythons responsible for preying on potoroos was based on a hypothesis that a few individuals were responsible for multiple predation events that have occurred in previous translocations. In support of this, some of the predation events had occurred in the same area. All three pythons with potoroos inside them this year were close to 2 metres in length. They have been removed from the enclosure and translocated over 10 km to the eastern end of the Waychinicup National Park. It is difficult to estimate the python population in the enclosure. The increase in mammal density in the enclosure may be attracting pythons in from outside. Altering the translocation time from October (previous years) to July in 2014 did not avoid predation by carpet pythons as hoped, as there were some days soon after the translocation when the temperature was at least 22 degrees.</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>GPAG has gone from strength to strength in their fundraising efforts. The group has produced a tea towel featuring Gilbert's potoroos and including the word 'Albany' to increase sales to cruise ship visitors. So far this year 60 cases of wine have been sold. Once again Taronga Zoo staff have given great support, purchasing 12 cases.</p> <p>GPAG has provided the funding to Parks and Wildlife for more field cameras and two GPS pods for tracking potoroos. Jackie Lomax donated 6 sets of her books Fooley Rooey and Peekaboo Potoroo to GPAG.</p> <p>On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014, the Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team and over 70 guests celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rediscovery of the Gilbert's Potoroo at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve. The Federal Government's Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, attended the function and expressed his pleasure at the strong community support. GWN and the Albany Advertiser covered the event.</p> <p>Parks and Wildlife's Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch's eco-education officers have presented 'Western Shield packs' to schools. These packages are a learning and development tool aimed at Bushrangers and students of all ages and include activities for excursions and incursions.</p> <p>Jackie Foster from SCNRM is revamping educational programs to encompass new school curriculums focussing on educational trapping at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.</p> <p>South Coast NRM has conducted several visits to Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve with Traditional Owners.</p>
<p><b>Land use/tenure changes</b> e.g. covenants, acquisitions, changes in</p>	



land use or listed purpose etc.	
<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	
<b>Recovery plans</b> e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated	<p>The Recovery Team reviewed the recovery plan during the December 2014 team meeting. Threatening processes were discussed and included fire, predator management (foxes and cats), low recruitment (20-40% survival of pouch young to adulthood), disease (largely unknown not as much research in the wild as in captivity). <i>Phytophthora dieback</i> is not considered to be of concern.</p> <p>Genetic research would be very beneficial as in order to maintain as much genetic diversity as possible.</p> <p>Continued awareness and community participation.</p> <p>Criteria for success were discussed and were considered to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce extinction risk,</li> <li>• Have another translocation site,</li> <li>• Filling in research gaps,</li> <li>• Continued awareness and community participation</li> </ul> <p>A committee was established to produce the first draft of the revised Recovery Plan, comprising Manda Page, Tony Friend, Sarah Comer, Juanita Renwick and Jackie Courtenay.</p>
<b>Other actions completed</b>	