

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 29

TRANSLOCATION OF THREATENED FLORA AND FAUNA

Revised July 1995

This Policy should be read in conjunction with Policy Statements 9 (Conservation of threatened flora in the wild), 33 (Conservation of endangered and specially protected fauna in the wild), 44 (Wildlife Management Programs) and 50 (Setting priorities for the conservation of Western Australia's threatened flora and fauna). This Policy applies to all translocations of threatened taxa undertaken by any person anywhere in Western Australia and to translocations of threatened Western Australian flora and fauna to places outside the State.

1. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE

To conserve threatened animals and plants in the wild by carrying OUT translocations if such measures are warranted.

2. DEFINITIONS

In This Policy:

"Fauna Reconstruction Site" means an area where The Department Of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is proposing to reconstruct, or is reconstructing, the vertebrate fauna as far as is possible through predator control, habitat management and translocations,

"Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines (IWMGs)" means guidelines approved by the Director of Nature Conservation for The management and protection of threatened or harvested taxa where no full Wildlife Management Program has been prepared.

"Introduction" means releasing or establishing an organism outside its historically known native range.

"Re-introduction" means the movement of an organism into part of its native range from which it has disappeared or become extirpated in historic times as a result of human activities or natural catastrophe.

"Re-stocking" means the movement of numbers of plants or animals with the intention of building up the number of individuals of that species in an original habitat or of introducing greater genetic diversity.

"Species Recovery Site" means an area where management priority is given to the recovery and conservation of one or more nominated threatened species.

'Successful translocation' means, as far as this Policy is concerned, one that provides a self-perpetuating population with at least 90% of the genetic diversity of the source population, without expensive, non-routine management.

"Taxon" (plural taxa) is a term for any classificatory group of organisms such as families, genera, species subspecies or varieties, whether formally described or not.

"Threatened taxon" means any animal taxon declared under Section 14(2)(ba) or any plant taxon declared under Section 23F(21) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act* as 'likely to become extinct or is rare'.

'Translocation' means the movement of living organisms from one area with free release in another. Translocation includes introductions, re-introductions and restocking.

'Translocation Proposal' means a written statement of intent to carry out a translocation in Western Australia covering all matters provided in Appendix 2.

'Western Australian Wildlife Management Program' means a publication produced by CALM providing detailed information and guidance for the management and protection of threatened or harvested species or groups of those species. Programs for threatened taxa are usually referred to as "Recovery Plans".

3. BACKGROUND

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has the statutory responsibility for the conservation and protection of flora and fauna in Western Australia. An essential part of this responsibility is to prevent the extinction of any species.¹ of native flora or fauna.

Many Australian animals, particularly mammals, have suffered enormous range reductions over the past century, and some remain only as small, remnant populations sometimes only on islands. Many plants have suffered enormous contractions in range, mostly because of clearing for agriculture and urban development, and some are now reduced to a few individuals in unprotected habitat. Even within protected areas (national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, and other conservation reserves), some animals are threatened by introduced predators and many plants are threatened by dieback disease caused by *Phytophthora* species. With techniques now being available for the control of the European Red Fox, feral cats, rabbits and Other exotic animals, reconstruction of the original fauna is becoming possible in some areas, Reconstruction of the original flora of areas affected by *Phytophthora* dieback is not yet possible.

Translocation to protected, managed and, in the case of dieback-susceptible species, dieback-free areas, is an effective and popular method of research into and conservation of threatened species of both plants and animals. In Western Australia, translocations have already been carried out, or are being contemplated, for mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs and plants. For some species, translocations are likely to be the best or the only way of preventing extinction. In much of the State, translocation is the only method for reconstructing the former fauna of an area. Translocation can also be used for preserving genetic diversity within species and at infra-specific levels.

In general, translocations for conservation purposes should not be attempted unless The causes of the original extinction have been removed or ameliorated or unless The causes are not present at the site chosen for translocation. As well, any other threats posed to the translocated species by, for example, feral animals and plant diseases, need to be controlled. Experimental translocations may be necessary to establish the cause of a local extinction if this can not be established in any other way. No translocations, including experimental ones, should take place unless the fate of the animals or plants is monitored adequately.

¹ 1 In this Policy Statement, unless otherwise indicated, species is used in its wide context and includes intra-specific taxa

Planning for translocation and other actions to conserve threatened species will be aided by the adoption of consistent terminology for areas where threatened species are being managed. This policy adopts such terminology for threatened species Coordination and planning in relation to Fauna Reconstruction Sites will be particularly important. For example, it could be unwise to add too many species to an area in a short period of time, since the species may interact or compete for food or shelter, and it may be difficult to determine reasons for one species not establishing while another did. Adding a predator, such as the chuditch, to a reconstruction site before possible prey species, e.g., the numbat, is well established, could also be unwise.

When considering the translocation of critical weight range mammals (adult body weight 35 g to *ca* 8 kg²) and some ground nesting birds, where the major reason for local extinction's has been introduced predators, control of the introduced predators) will be a prerequisite for translocation. Total removal of introduced predators is not, in most cases, possible. Scientific research in the south-west of Western Australia has shown that significantly decreasing the density of foxes is sufficient for remnant populations of mammals to increase rapidly in numbers and for translocations of animals such as numbats and woylies to be successful. In arid parts of the State, the control of feral cats has been more difficult than the control of foxes or dingoes; however recent research by CALM has resulted in the development of a new method of controlling cats. At present the levels of cat reduction necessary for the successful translocation of various threatened species in arid areas are unknown and will have to be established.

Introduced herbivores, such as the rabbit and goats, can have a significant effect on native plants and on the habitat of threatened animals. These and other possible causes of the local extinction of a species need to be addressed when considering translocations.

In general, it is desirable that plants and animals for translocation come from wild stocks. In some instances, however, especially where the wild population has been reduced to a few individuals, the prevention of extinction may require the captive breeding or cultivation of Threatened species followed by re-introduction or introduction. This type of management is likely to involve collaborative programs between CALM and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth Zoo, other institutions, private wildlife parks and nurseries or private individuals.

Kings Park has both the expertise and facilities for the propagation of threatened plant material (including tissue culture techniques). In conjunction with CALM nurseries, sufficient numbers of plants could be cultivated for most translocation programs. Kings Park has also established a threatened plant garden and hopes to be able to display much of the State's Declared Threatened Flora.

Although they have excellent propagating facilities and have a seed collection of their own, Kings Park will often rely on CALM for much of the material (seed, cuttings, tissue culture material) necessary for the cultivation of a species prior to its translocation in the wild. Most seed material will be available from CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; for some species seed and cutting material will also be available at Kings Park or from horticulturists. The CALM Threatened Flora Seed Centre has a program for the systematic collection and long term storage of adequate genetic resources of rare or

² 2 modified from Burbidge, A.A. and McKenzie, N.L. (1989). Patterns in the modern decline Of Western Australia's vertebrate fauna. causes and conservation implications, *Biological Conservation* 50, 143-198.

threatened species particularly those susceptible to *Phytophthora*. Material from a number of species is now available for propagation and translocation projects if required.

Other botanic gardens and privately-owned nurseries often have excellent facilities for the propagation of threatened plants. Where appropriate, agreements with such organisations may promote the conservation of threatened plant taxa.

Perth Zoo has been involved in captive breeding projects for threatened species (both Australian and non-Australian) for many years. Perth Zoo has a strong commitment to conservation through the Australasian Species Management Program, which coordinates zoo captive breeding projects.

Some other zoos and wildlife parks have suitable captive breeding facilities for Western Australian threatened species. Where appropriate, agreements with such organisations and private individuals may promote the conservation of threatened animal taxa.

Re-introductions from one mainland site to another a relatively short distance away should present few difficulties, providing the habitat is suitable and the cause of the original local extinction has been removed or can be sufficiently reduced to allow the species to re-establish. Re-introductions over long distances may be more difficult because of possible genetic and physiological differences between subpopulations. If there is a choice among populations, the source population should be the one that has the closest ecological characteristics (e.g., morphology, physiology, behaviour, phenology, habitat preferences) to the original sub-population.

Re-introductions from an island to the mainland need careful consideration because of possible differences between mainland and island populations, which have usually been separated for many thousands of years. Unless there are over-riding reasons (e.g., significant differences in physiology and habitat of remaining mainland sub-populations and the original sub-population), translocations from islands to the mainland should not be considered unless the species is extinct on the mainland.

INTRODUCTIONS

Because of the possible negative impact of introductions on the balance of natural systems, introductions should be considered only where there are exceptionally strong conservation reasons for so doing and where it has been demonstrated that the impact of the introduced species is unlikely to be significant. As a general principle, introductions will not be approved if opportunities for re-introductions exist.

Introductions to mainland sites will be necessary to conserve species whose habitat has been largely destroyed. For example, some threatened plants which have become threatened because of extensive clearing in the Wheatbelt now occur only on road verges or in small remnants of native vegetation on private property. To conserve such species in the wild it may be necessary to introduce them to conservation reserves, even though they do not occur naturally there. Proposals to introduce species must always include a thorough assessment of potential impact, including an evaluation of competition or predator/prey interactions between other threatened species and the species under consideration.

Introductions to islands need very careful consideration. Islands are frequently of very high intrinsic value for nature conservation as intact or near-intact ecosystems and because of endemism in their biota.

Australian offshore islands are crucial for vertebrate conservation. Nine species of mammals that formerly occurred on the mainland now occur only on islands, five of them occurring only in Western Australia. Moreover, there are many mammal, bird and reptile taxa that are endemic to islands. Data on plants on Western Australian islands have not been collated, but few species are thought to be restricted to islands, one example being *Leucopogon interruptus*, which occurs only on islands in the Archipelago of the Recherche.

Island faunas and floras are particularly vulnerable to introductions of alien species. Possible impacts on the fauna (including invertebrates) and flora of islands must, therefore, be considered. In the past, some mammal introductions have had a major detrimental impact on vegetation (eg, the Tammar Wallaby *Macropus eugenii* to Granite Island, South Australia) and it is possible that translocations could affect other fauna (eg, introducing a predator to an island with important seabird or lizard populations, or an important turtle rookery).

There have been numerous translocations of indigenous animals to islands. Australia wide, at least 29 mammal species have been translocated to at least 52 islands; very few of these have been well planned or documented. Many were not appropriate and some have failed. In Western Australia, CALM records show that only five approved indigenous animal translocations to islands have occurred: Rothschild's Rock-wallaby from Enderby Island to West Lewis Island; Banded Hare-wallaby from Dorre Island to Dirk Hartog Island (this translocation was unsuccessful); Greater Stick-nest Rat from a captive-bred colony sourced from Franklin Island, South Australia, to Salutation Island; Shark Bay Mouse from Bernier Island to Doole Island; and Noisy Scrub-bird from Two Peoples Bay to Bald Island. Unapproved translocations have included Western Grey Kangaroos from the mainland to Woody Island and Tammar Wallabies from one of the Wallabi Islands to North Island, Houtman Abrolhos. Many weeds have become established through unplanned introductions.

Introductions of threatened species to islands can provide important security for that species against imminent extinction when control of the threatening process on the mainland is not possible or very costly. However, there are relatively few islands suitable for species' translocations and often the establishment of a species on an island will close options for future translocations of other, perhaps more threatened species (e.g., when the second species has similar niche requirements). Therefore, it is very important that introductions to islands are well thought through and are only conducted after a full assessment, including an evaluation of other possible translocations of perhaps more threatened species. Proposals to introduce species to islands must therefore include a thorough assessment of potential impact on the island ecosystem in question, and must include an evaluation of other threatened species that might compete with the species under consideration, and for which the island has suitable habitat.

RESTOCKING

Restocking may be necessary where populations of threatened species have limited genetic diversity (either naturally or following a translocation) or where augmentation of numbers is necessary for the population to be able to recover quickly.

Restocking proposals should present few difficulties where interbreeding of the original and translocated individuals can take place without manipulation. In some cases, however, manipulation may be necessary. For example, some mammals that defend territories may not allow a newly translocated

animal to enter an existing population and successful restocking may not be possible unless some animals are removed from the established population.

4. POLICY

The Department will:

- 4.1 Designate areas as Fauna Reconstruction Sites and Species Recovery Sites, and publish a list of such sites annually.
- 4.2 Ensure that all translocations in Western Australia and from Western Australia to outside the State, except as provided herein, follow the principles laid down by IUCN (1987)³ (see Appendix 1 for a summary),
- 4.3 During the preparation of Recovery Plans or Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines, identify those threatened plant and animal species in need of translocation in the wild and decide whether the Translocation will be from wild populations or from captive-bred or cultivated populations.
- 4.4 Ensure That translocations of threatened species within Western Australia or from Western Australia to elsewhere are conducted only under approved Wildlife Management Programs or Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines, or, in exceptional circumstances or emergency situations, for example salvage of plants or animals under immediate threat of destruction, by approval of the Director of Nature Conservation: this will be a holding action only and will be reviewed by the development of Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines or a Recovery Plan. Ensure that all translocations of threatened animals are approved by a properly constituted Animal Experimentation and Ethics Committee.
- 4.5 Except as provided in 4.4, ensure that The Director of Nature Conservation approves translocations only after review of a written Translocation Proposal.
- 4.6 Undertake and foster research into the ecology, population biology, genetics, captive-breeding or cultivation of threatened flora and fauna, and translocation and subsequent management of threatened flora and fauna in the wild.
- 4.7 Collaborate and liaise with other organisations to coordinate research into conservation genetics of threatened species, especially as it relates to maintaining genetic variability in captive-bred or propagated populations of threatened species and conserving genetic resources in translocated populations of threatened plants and animals.

5. STRATEGIES

To accomplish the above objective and policies CALM will:

- 5.1 Designate areas as Fauna Reconstruction Sites and Species Recovery Sites as required for the conservation of threatened species or for educational purposes. Such designation will require the

³ IUCN (1987). The IUCN position statement on translocation of living organisms. Introductions re-introductions and re-stocking IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. See Appendix 2.

approval of The Corporate Executive and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, and if on land controlled by another body or private person, the approval of that body or person. Publish the list annually.

- 5.2 Administer the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations, in so far as translocations are concerned, according to this Policy Statement.
- 5.3 Except in the case of emergency salvage operations, decide whether to approve proposed translocations only after review of a written "Translocation Proposal" (TP, see Appendix 2) prepared by the proponent which will cover all relevant matters. TPs will be referred to at least two experienced scientists for refereeing. Public advertisement of the-TP and a period of public review will be considered by the Director of Nature Conservation if the project has probability of significant environmental or social impact. The TP will aim to fulfil a strategy defined in a Wildlife Management Program or Interim Guideline and will present specific proposals for translocation in detail.
- 5.4 Provide guidance and assistance to persons wishing to develop TPs, especially in the development of Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines or Recovery Plans.
- 5.5 Except in the case of emergency salvage operations, approve Translocations only where the TP has demonstrated that there will be no detrimental effect on the viability of the source population.
- 5.6 Approve the introduction of species to habitats or locations from which they have not been recorded in historical times only where available distributional data (including sub-fossil records) or bioclimatic modelling suggest that the species probably occurred in the area or where:
 - (a) opportunities for re-introductions do not exist; and
 - (b) the TP has demonstrated that the impact of the introduced species is unlikely to be significant; and
 - (c) the TIP demonstrates that the translocation has a high probability of success or that translocation is The only method available to establish the reasons for a species' local extinction or
 - (d) there are exceptionally strong conservation reasons for so doing.
- 5.7 Approve introductions to islands only if the TP has demonstrated, in addition to the requirements of strategy 5.6, that the proposed translocation is more important than. or will have no effect on, possible translocations of other threatened taxa to that island.
- 5.8 Approve translocations from islands to the mainland only if the TP has provided strong evidence that the taxon, or one with which it might hybridise, does not now exist on the mainland, or provided there are over-riding conservation reasons for the introduction of an island population.
- 5.9 Where there is more than one possible source for the plants or animals to be translocated, approve translocations only if the TP has provided strong reasons why the particular population

was chosen above others. Where there is more than one potential translocation site, the TP must evaluate the alternatives and provide reasons for choosing the recommended site.

- 5.10 Undertake research into the ecology, population biology, genetics, captive breeding and cultivation, maintenance of habitat quality, habitat restoration and re-establishment and subsequent management of threatened flora and fauna in the wild.
- 5.11 Collect from wild plant populations, under programs approved by the Director of Nature Conservation, seed and other propagating materials from threatened taxa for storage in the Threatened Flora Seed Centre and use by Kings Park and Botanic Garden, other relevant institutions and individuals in cultivation programs.
- 5.12 Foster research and collaborate with Kings Park and Botanic Garden and other organisations and individuals on the propagation and cultivation of threatened flora.
- 5.13 Foster research and collaborate with the Perth Zoo and other approved organisations and individuals on captive breeding of threatened native fauna.
- 5.14 Maintain in the Department's Threatened Flora Seed Centre suitable stocks of properly documented collections of seed from threatened plant species and ensure that replicates (when available) are exchanged with Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and other relevant collections (subject To proper controls on commercial and other uses).
- 5.15 Where appropriate and necessary, foster the distribution of captive-bred threatened fauna and the proper maintenance of captive populations (including the use of stud books to maximise genetic diversity) in zoos and other institutions throughout Australia and overseas.
- 5.16 Undertake training in the management practices necessary for the re- establishment and monitoring of populations of threatened species.
- 5.17 Monitor numbers of both the translocated population and the source population.
- 5.18 Establish and maintain seed orchards of selected threatened species under approved Wildlife Management Programs or Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines.
- 5.19 Propagate and build up cultivated stocks of threatened flora in Departmental nurseries, in collaboration with Kings Park and Botanic Garden and other organisations, for translocation to the wild under approved Wildlife Management Programs or Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines.

5.20 Publicise efforts to avert extinction of threatened flora and fauna using translocation techniques, encourage community involvement and seek sponsorship and donations for conservation of these threatened species.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10 July 1995

Distribution:

Lists A, B, D, E & L

APPENDIX 1

Summary of IUCN (1987) Position Statement on Translocation of Living Organisms.

Definitions of translocation, introduction, re-introduction and restocking are the same as in this Policy Statement.

PART I INTRODUCTIONS

Background. The Position Statement reviews the background of introductions of exotic species for reasons such as economic development. It states that the damage done by harmful introductions to natural systems far outweighs the benefit derived from them and that this has been a world-wide problem. It points out that islands are especially vulnerable to introductions.

Intentional introductions. Two principles are given:

1. Introduction of an alien species should only be considered if clear and well defined benefits to man or natural communities can be foreseen
2. Introduction of an alien species should only be considered if no native species is considered suitable for the purpose for which the introduction is being made.

Much of this section concerns introductions into modified habitats for economic reasons. In the section dealing with introductions to natural habitats the Position Statement states "No alien species should be deliberately introduced into any natural habitat, island, lake, sea, ocean or centre of endemism whether within or beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. A natural habitat is defined as a habitat not perceptibly altered by man."

Planning a beneficial introduction. The Position Statement states that essential features of investigation and planning consist of:

- an assessment phase culminating in a decision on the desirability of the introduction;
- an experimental, controlled trial;
- the extensive introduction phase with monitoring and follow-up.

These phases are described in detail.

Accidental introductions. The Position Statement discusses ways of minimising accidental introductions.

Where alien species are already present. The Position Statement encourages the removal or eradication of alien species of no apparent benefit to humans, It states that special efforts should be made to eradicate introductions on islands, in areas which are centres of endemism, in areas of high

species diversity or ecological diversity and in areas where a threatened endemic is jeopardised by the presence of the alien.

Biological control. The Position Statement states that biological control has shown itself to be an effective way of controlling introduced plants and more rarely, animals. As 'biological control involves introductions of alien species, the same care and procedures should be used as with other intentional introductions.

Micro-organisms. The Position Statement encourages the same care and procedures be used for the introduction of micro-organisms as with other introductions.

PART II THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF SPECIES.

Re-introductions are particularly useful for restoring a species to an original habitat where it has become extinct due to human persecution, over-collecting, over-harvesting .6e habitat deterioration, but where these factors can now be controlled. Re-introductions should only take place where the original causes of extinction have been removed. Re-introductions should only take place where the natural habitat requirements of -the species are satisfied.

The basic program for re-introduction should consist of

- . a feasibility study;
- . a preparation phase;
- release or introduction phase;
- follow-up phase.

Details of each of these phases are provided.

PART III RESTOCKING.

The Position Statement discusses where restocking may be useful. It states that attention should be paid to the genetic constitution of stocks used for restocking-

PART IV NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSLOCATIONS

The Position Statement recommends that there be permit systems for introductions and prohibitions on the introductions of potentially harmful organisms. There should be appropriate penalties for illegal introductions and a person responsible for an illegal introduction should bear the costs of eradication and habitat restoration.

It discusses the scientific work needed for better management of translocations.

APPENDIX 2

Matters to be covered by a Translocation Proposal (TP).

Before preparing a Translocation Proposal, the proponent should be conversant with this Policy. The TP must provide sufficient information about the species and the proposed translocation for an informed decision to be made whether to approve or reject the proposal. It should review relevant knowledge about the species' biology and ecology, its past and present distribution and conservation status, and the urgency of conservation action. Information presented should be supported by references or data. Opinions expressed about aspects of the species' conservation biology, should be clearly identified as such. The TP should be forwarded to the Director, Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit, Department of Conservation and Land Management, PO Box 51, Wanneroo, WA 6065, at least three months before the planned date of the translocation.

The Translocation Proposal must take account of all provisions of this Policy Statement and should be prepared according to the following headings and contain the following information.

1. **Summary** (maximum of one page).
2. **Name and affiliation of proponent.**
3. **Background.** To contain information on the species' former and present distribution, its conservation status, its biology and ecology.
4. **The Translocation.** To discuss why the translocation is being proposed and provide a detailed description of the proposal, including post-release monitoring.
 - (a) Provide details of the status of the land at the translocation site and, for lands other than those managed by CALM, provide evidence of the agreement of the controlling body or owner.
 - (b) Where there is more than one possible source for the organisms to be translocated, TPs will provide reasons why a particular population was chosen above others. Where there is more than one potential target site, the TP must evaluate the alternatives and provide reasons for choosing the recommended site.
 - (c) TPs proposing introductions must demonstrate that opportunities for re- introductions of the species do not exist, that the impact of the introduced species on the natural environment is unlikely to be significant, that there are exceptionally strong conservation reasons for the introduction, and/or that available distributional data (including sub-fossil records) or bioclimatic modelling suggest that the species probably occurred in the area. TPs proposing introductions to islands must also demonstrate that the proposed introduction is more important than, or will have no effect on, possible translocations of other threatened taxa to that island.

- (d) TPs for translocations from islands to the mainland must provide strong evidence that the taxon, or one with which it might hybridise, does not now exist on the mainland, or provide over-riding conservation reasons for the introduction of an island population.
 - (e) TPs will consider the principles of conservation genetics when proposing translocations. In particular, TPs will discuss the number of individuals to be translocated in relation to maintaining genetic variability. TPs will state whether it is proposed to mix individuals from more than one population and, if so, provide evidence that this will benefit conservation of biodiversity.
 - (f) When re-introductions are being proposed, TPs will review the causes, of the original local extinction of the taxon at the target site and provide evidence that the cause(s) has been removed or ameliorated.
 - (g) TPs covering threatened species that are considered to have become locally extinct because of introduced animals such as the fox or feral cat must discuss the extent to which introduced predators will be controlled and the extent to which such control will be effective in allowing the establishment of a population of the threatened species. TPs covering species that have become locally extinct due to grazing by introduced herbivores must discuss the extent to which this threatening process will be controlled.
 - (h) Details of post-release monitoring must include a commitment to monitor the resulting population in the medium to long term, including a commitment to closely monitor the fate of a proportion of the translocated organisms in the short term where experience with translocating the taxon is limited or where the translocation is to an environment into which the taxon has not been translocated previously.
5. **Funding.** To identify the source of funds for the translocation and demonstrate that long term management resources for the translocated population are available and committed.
 6. **Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee approval.** For threatened animals, provide evidence that the proposal has been submitted to and approved by an Animal Experimental Ethics Committee operating according to the 'Code of practice for the care and use of animals in research in Australia' (National Health and Medical Research Council and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation).
 7. **Endorsement by proponent's organisation**
 8. **References.**
 9. **Attachments.** To include the IWMG or Recovery Plan, Science Project Plan or equivalent, copies of supporting documents, funding approvals, etc.