



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



**SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT
THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM**

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name	Numbat Recovery Team	
Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)	Calendar year 2008	
Current membership		
	Member	Representing
1. Chair	Dr Tony Friend	DEC Science Division
2.	Brett Beecham	DEC Wheatbelt Region
3.	Rob Brazell	DEC Wellington District (South West Region)
4.	Peter Collins	DEC Albany District
	Peter Copley	Department of Environment and Heritage (South Australia)
5.	Peter Orell	DEC Species and Communities Branch
6.	Dr Manda Page	Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)
7.	Vicki Power	Project Numbat
8.	Dr Helen Robertson	Perth Zoo
9.	Paul Tholen	DEC Perth Hills District (Swan Region)
10.	Neil Thomas	DEC Science Division
11.	Ian Wilson	DEC Donnelly District (Warren Region)
Changes to Recovery Team	Dr Manda Page has replaced Andre Schmitz as the AWC representative, and Paul Tholen has taken over from Dave Mitchell as DEC Swan Region's representative. Dr Nicky Marlow had represented	

	<p>WATSCU but this has been subsumed into the Species and Communities Branch, represented by Peter Orell, who was the Western Shield representative. The community group, Project Numbat, has recently been formed and the Chair, Vicki Power, has been nominated to be the group's representative on the Team.</p>
Dates meetings were held	15 th July 2008
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU	<p>Signs of growing success in the translocation of numbats to Cocanarup Timber Reserve, near Ravensthorpe, include sightings of a young male numbat on South Coast Highway adjacent to the Timber Reserve by several members of the public and production of young both in 2007 and 2008. A total of 39 numbats has been released there over three years, including 26 young captive-bred at Perth Zoo and 13 from the wild at Dryandra. The first release occurred three weeks after a major wildfire in the reserve and was followed by high rates of predation by raptors. Rates of survival in 2008 have been significantly higher and several young have been raised successfully by their mothers. The Numbat Recovery Team will decide at its next meeting whether to supplement the translocation with a further released in 2009.</p>
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from actions in Recovery Plan)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Management of existing populations and habitat. (2) Genetic survey of existing populations. (3) Translocations to establish at least six further self-sustaining populations. (4) Disease survey and health monitoring of all populations. (5) Captive breeding to provide animals for display and to supplement the translocation program if necessary. (6) Establishment and support of public awareness and sponsorship programs.
Action 1 Management of existing populations and habitat.	<p>Fox control, fire management and visitor management, where appropriate, were carried out at all eight sites managed by DEC that support numbat populations. AWC manages two fenced wildlife sanctuaries (Yookamurra in South Australia and Scotia in NSW) that are free of foxes and feral cats and support reintroduced numbat populations.</p> <p>Fox control is carried out monthly at Dryandra Woodland, Boyagin and Tutanning Nature Reserves and within Cocanarup Timber Reserve and adjacent Unallocated Crown Land and quarterly at Dragon Rocks, Stirling Range National Park, Perup Nature Reserve, Kingston State Forest and surrounding areas and in State Forest in the Batalling area. All of these sites support numbat populations.</p>
Action 2 Genetic survey of existing populations.	<p>Ear tissue for DNA analysis is collected routinely from all numbats handled in DEC-managed populations. A genetic survey of Dryandra, Perup and Boyagin was carried out in 1995. Another survey is proposed in the near future.</p>
Action 3 Translocations to establish at least six further self-sustaining populations.	<p>In December 2008, 13 numbats, including 6 captive-bred animals from Perth Zoo and 7 numbats from the wild population at Dryandra were released at Cocanarup Timber Reserve, near Ravensthorpe, the site of the current translocation. Numbats had been released previously at the same site in December 2006 and December 2007. All numbats are radio-collared before release and monitoring of radio-collared</p>

	<p>animals was carried out every week or two in 2008.</p> <p>High mortality, mainly due to raptor predation, was noted following the 2006 release, which occurred three weeks after a large wildfire in part of the Timber Reserve. Only one numbat was known to survive the year until the next release and although one female produced young, she died before the young were weaned. In 2008, the results of monitoring the 2007 release were more positive, with at least four animals known to survive to the next release. Two of these were females that had produced young during 2008, although the young were not captured. Several sightings of an uncollared animal were reported by members of the public, however.</p> <p>The Cocanarup translocation was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust through South Coast NRM (salary) and DEC's Western Shield Translocation Program (operational costs). Some radio-collars were provided through donations secured by Project Numbat.</p> <p>In December 2008, a collaborative survey of the numbat population at Scotia was carried out Dr Friend and AWC staff. Twenty-three numbats were sighted in four days, providing the data to give an estimate of the Scotia population.</p>
<p>Action 4 Disease survey and health monitoring of all populations.</p>	<p>A comprehensive disease survey on numbat populations was carried out prior to 2008. Health monitoring is continuing, both on the captive population and through regular monitoring of the current translocation. No disease issues have emerged recently.</p>
<p>Action 5 Captive breeding to provide animals for display and to supplement the translocation program if necessary.</p>	<p>The collaborative captive breeding program at Perth Zoo continued in 2008, providing 6 numbats for release at Cocanarup Timber Reserve in December. Due to deaths of adult males and advancing age of others, there was an urgent need for adult males (as males are not sexually mature until their second year) for the January 2009 breeding season, in order to achieve the aim of providing up to 20 numbat progeny for release to the wild each year. Three adult males were sourced by the Recovery Team in December 2008 for the captive breeding program at Perth Zoo; two by DEC from Dryandra and one from AWC's Scotia Sanctuary.</p> <p>Numbats remain a popular exhibit at Perth Zoo and a focus for public education.</p>
<p>Action 6 Establishment and support of public awareness and sponsorship programs.</p>	<p>The involvement in the activities of the recovery team of the new community action group, Project Numbat (PN), has provided greater public awareness, extra funding through fund-raising and sponsorships, and a new source of volunteers. DEC, AWC, the Malleefowl Preservation Group and Perth Zoo gave whole-hearted support for PN's initiatives, including the production of its first newsletter. During 2008, PN provided \$2,000 for radio-collars for use in the numbat recovery program.</p> <p>During the year, 20 volunteers provided assistance in field activities as part of DEC's numbat recovery activities.</p>