

WORKSHOP SESSION:  
RE-INTRODUCTION OF LOCALLY-EXTINCT SPECIES  
AND FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL

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The workshop participants addressed the following questions and areas of concern:

1. Is re-introduction worth it?

The immediate response to this question was "How do we decide if it is worth re-introducing particular species?"

The following criteria were listed:

- . increase a population size
  - no. of individuals in a population
  - increase genetic variability/diversity and ecological opportunity
- . popular opinion
- . good way of finding out what limits a population
- . salvage a species from extinction

The value of a re-introduction program has to be assessed against these criteria

2. Which species are the priorities?

The discussion suggested there were a number of criteria with which to set priorities:

- . genotype threatened species
- . critically endangered species
  - very small numbers of individuals
  - very few populations
- . species facing specific realised threats
- . keystone and/or functionally important species
- . species providing a good chance of re-introduction success

3. Compile a check list of practical considerations necessary to undertake a re-introduction program

- . experimental approach was considered a primary component
- . monitoring the result of re-introduction and setting the objectives before the start
- . having an adequate biological knowledge of the species involved and a handle on limiting factors
- . having adequate resources for the project before the start
  - biological (suitable animals)
  - structure of project (has to be long term ie production of 2nd/3rd generation individuals from founding stock)
- . suitable habitat for re-introduction
  - structure and floristics
  - nutritional status

- tenure to ensure adequate management
- . coordination and communication between agencies
- . national coordination
- . monitoring the impact of re-introduction on other species  
(more important for introductions)

Graeme Griffin provided a flow diagram (see attached photo-copy) to examine the options available in a re-introduction program.

4. Should we be attempting more broad scale feral animal control in areas not targeted for re-introductions?

The consensus of the workshop was "No" to this question. However, it was agreed that there should be some targeted feral animal control with certain conditions attached.

Before implimentation:

- . Elimination of the feral animals must be the goal
- . The interactions between predators and potential prey species must be understood. Control of predators may enable prey items, such as rabbits, to increase in numbers and degrade habitat making it unsuitable for native species.
- . The interaction between predator species must be understood. The control of a species, for example the dingo, may selectively improve the conditions for other less easily controlled species, such as species cats and foxes.
- . Critical areas "hot spots" need to be identified.
- . Need to locate the critical areas

# PRIORITY LIST

