

**Progress Report CF 2023-018**

# **Fauna Conservation and Recovery**

**BCS Species and Communities**

## **Project Core Team**

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X X  
**Project Team** granted  
**Program Leader** granted  
**Directorate** required



# Fauna Conservation and Recovery

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## Context

Fauna conservation and recovery provides leadership for biodiversity conservation programs and expert advice on conservation, policy and management of threatened fauna to meet the department's obligations under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

This is achieved through the provision and interpretation of science-based information and advice to decision-makers and land managers, coordination of recovery programs, development of recovery programs and plans for threatened fauna, supporting recovery teams, administering strategic translocation planning, and leading management plans for non-threatened species including the kangaroo.

The department's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) is administered to ensure requirements for ethical consideration of animals in departmental research and management activities and the requirements of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, (AW Act) are met.

## Aims

- To provide evidence-based advice for the management and protection of threatened and priority fauna resulting in recovery of threatened fauna.
- Set strategic direction for recovery programs for threatened fauna, including translocations.
- Up-to-date science is used to inform policy and strategic direction relating to fauna.
- Management requirements for harvest quotas and reporting of the commercial harvest of kangaroos in WA are met.
- Ensure that animals used for scientific purposes are cared for and used in an ethical and humane manner and that the department meets its commitments under the AW Act and the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

## Progress

- Advice and support were provided to internal and external stakeholders on recovery actions for threatened species, land management activities to support conservation, and national recovery plans.
- Advice and support were provided to 17 state fauna recovery teams to ensure continued conservation and recovery of threatened species and to the national recovery teams for mala, malleefowl and bilby.
- Supported Wildlife Protection Branch by providing expert technical advice on applications for fauna licences under the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*.
- Reviewed and provided recommendations on 19 proposals for intra- and interstate translocations involving 17 threatened and two priority fauna species, and including three translocations into, and four releases from, captive-breeding programs.
- Provided the annual report on the commercial harvest of kangaroos in WA in 2022 to the Australian Government and drafted the Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2024-2028.
- The AEC met six times, conducted a total of 345 assessments, approved 11 new projects and approved the renewal of 19 projects. There were 129 active AEC approved projects for fauna monitoring, general fauna research, translocations, fauna surveys, education, feral animal control research and marine research.

## Management implications

- Threatened fauna recovery plans and teams guide conservation activities and outcomes.
- Translocations of threatened and priority fauna improve biological knowledge, husbandry techniques and conservation trajectory of these species.
- Kangaroo populations are commercially harvested at a sustainable level based on population projections.
- Ensuring that activities are formally assessed by the departmental AEC is a legislative requirement under the AW Act.

## Future directions

- Continue to deliver strategic direction and coordination of the conservation, management, protection and recovery of fauna in an efficient and effective manner.
- Continue to ensure that the correct processes and advice are in place for the department to meet its requirements under the AW Act.
- Continue to implement BC Act requirements related to native fauna, and ensure processes and guidelines are in place as required.