

**Concept Plan SP 2016-068**

**South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project:  
Southern Jarrah Forest**

**Animal Science**

**Project Core Team**

Supervising Scientist	Adrian Wayne
Data Custodian	Adrian Wayne
Site Custodian	

**Project status as of Dec. 12, 2017, 4:48 p.m.**

Pending project plan approval

**Document endorsements and approvals as of Dec. 12, 2017, 4:48 p.m.**

Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

# South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project: Southern Jarrah Forest

## Science and Conservation Division Program

Animal Science

## Parks and Wildlife Service

Service 2: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

## Aims

The purpose of the “South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project is to integrate the new *Eradicat*® feral cat bait with current fox baiting in four different Western Australian environments. Funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australian State Government, sites have been specifically selected to direct the funding to the improved conservation of species identified in the Commonwealth’s Threatened Species Strategy, and to align with fauna recovery programs underway or planned by Parks and Wildlife in the south-west of WA. The four locations represent four different climatic regions of the south-west of Western Australia; northern wheatbelt (Kalbarri N.P.), central wheatbelt (Dryandra Woodland) southern jarrah forest (Upper Warren region), and heathland (southcoast reserves). The primary goal of the project is to protect and contribute to the recovery of key threatened mammal and bird species found at each of these sites.

The goals for the Upper Warren component are to recover wild populations of western ringtail possums, woylies and numbats in the Perup/Upper Warren area, through:

- effective integration of feral cat control with existing fox control
- effective neighbour engagement; and
- successful establishment of an insurance population of western ringtail possums in the Perup Sanctuary.

This concept plan is focussed on the first of these goals, i.e. to recover wild populations of western ringtail possums, woylies and numbats in the Perup/Upper Warren area through effective integration of feral cat control with existing fox control.

**OBJECTIVE:** Develop an effective cat and fox control program using *Eradicat*® and Probait baits that reduces their impact sufficiently on vulnerable threatened native fauna to support viable and secure populations.

### STRATEGIES:

1. Determine when and where to deploy *Eradicat*® baits for effective feral cat control.
2. Experimentally conduct toxic *Eradicat*® baiting within a limited area of the Upper Warren to assess the effectiveness on target species (cats and foxes) and effects on non-target species (with a focus on potentially vulnerable and priority beneficiaries), having successfully completed and been informed by Strategy 1. This is to limit and verify the risks to populations of non-target species.
3. Operationally integrate *Eradicat*® and Probait into the introduced predator control and monitoring program across the Upper Warren region, having successfully completed and been informed by Strategies 1 and 2.
4. Consider the merits of rolling out the improved introduced predator control and monitoring program across other forested landscapes in south-western Australia based on the outcomes of Strategies 1, 2 and 3 above.

## Expected outcome

- Determining when and where *Eradicat*® baiting under existing protocols may be most effective in targeting feral cats and minimising the potential risk to non-target native mammals in the southern jarrah forests of WA.
- Quantifying the effectiveness of *Eradicat*® baiting on cat and fox densities and potential risks to non-target native mammals in the southern jarrah forests of WA.

## Strategic context

- Department of Parks and Wildlife strategic goal (Wildlife): Conserve, protect and manage the State's native plants and animals, and achieve habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation and protection based on best practice science.
- Science and Conservation Strategic Plan 2014-2017: Recovery of key animal species, understand and manage threats from pest.
- Directly relates to the fauna recovery programs underway or planned by Parks and Wildlife, in particular directly addressing one of the key threats (cats) to many native mammals in SW WA.

## Expected collaborations

- The other three project components within the South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project.
- International student projects including French intern Lena Baraud (February – June 2016) and CIEE student cohorts for two weeks in autumn and spring of each year.
- Warren regional staff.

## Proposed period of the project

Feb. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2018

## Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist	0.50	0.50	0.50
Technical	1.80	1.80	1.80
Volunteer	1.0	1.0	1.0
Collaborator			

## Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DPaW)	165,500	402,100	415,750
External Funding	102,000	57,000	312,000