

## Context Summary

Barrow Island nature reserve is one of Australia's most important conservation reserves, particularly for mammal and marine turtle conservation. It has also been the site of a producing oil field since 1964. In 2003 the WA Government approved the development of the Gorgon gas field off the north west of Barrow Island, and associated LNG plant on Barrow Island, subject to several environmental offset conditions. One of these was the threatened and priority fauna translocation program that provides for the translocation of selected Barrow Island fauna species to other secure island and mainland sites. This will assist in improving the conservation status of these species, and also allow the reconstruction of the fauna in some areas. It was also an opportunity to examine the factors affecting translocation success, and improve these where necessary. Targetted species are the golden bandicoot, brushtail possum, spectacled hare-wallaby, boodie, water rat, black and white fairy-wren, and spinifexbird.

## Aims Summary

- Successfully translocate selected mammal and bird species from Barrow Island to other secure island and mainland sites.
- Reconstruct the fauna in areas where these species have become locally extinct.
- Ensure ongoing appropriate management at the translocation sites, particularly introduced predators.
- Develop and refine protocols for fauna translocation and monitoring.

## Progress

- Monitored translocated species on the Montebello Islands, Doole Island and Lorna Glen. All translocated species at these sites have established and increased in abundance.
- No further translocations have occurred since 2012 due to lack of sites where feral cats and foxes are adequately under control.
- Taxonomic work on the water rat has shown that the Barrow Island form is sufficiently different from the south-west form to warrant subspecific status. This has implications for sourcing founder water rats for the proposed reintroduction to the Montebello Islands.
- Draft Barrow Island fauna translocation strategy developed.
- Draft business case for an expanded fenced enclosure at Lorna Glen prepared.
- Annual report on progress provided to Chevron.
- Project advisory group established.

## Management implications

Arid zone rangelands fauna reconstruction and conservation techniques developed by this project will have broad state and national application. The outcomes of the project will contribute to the management of Parks and Wildlife rangeland properties and provide guidance for future fauna reconstruction, e.g. Dirk Hartog Island. It will also contribute to an improvement in the conservation status of several threatened fauna taxa.

## Future directions

- Research into effectiveness of feral cat baiting at Cape Range to be undertaken in August 2014 so that an integrated fox/cat baiting regime can be developed for more effective reduction in fox and feral cat abundances. This will contribute significantly to this site becoming another fauna reconstruction site.

- Ongoing monitoring of the translocated mammals and birds at all the release sites. As part of this, a spectacled hare-wallaby monitoring program on Hermite Island using remote cameras will be developed.
- Barrow Island fauna translocation strategy to be finalised.
- Continue to plan for an expanded fenced enclosure at Lorna Glen in the context of an Indigenous Protected Area agreement with traditional owners.