



Australian Government

THREATENED
SPECIES
INVESTMENTS
AND FUTURE
OPPORTUNITIES



THREATENED SPECIES INVESTMENTS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES





The projects identified in the following pages are like a prospectus. They will start important conversations and have potential to forge long lasting partnerships for action. And of course, new project opportunities will emerge going forward. We all have a role to play in recovering Australia's threatened species. It's a task that relies on multiple partners, including federal, state and territory governments, NGO's, the private sector and communities. The project proposals have come to the attention of the Threatened Species Commissioner through his consultation with the community and states and territories on development and implementation of the Threatened Species Strategy. They provide opportunities for co investment and collaboration. By working together and pooling our efforts, we can be more effective and achieve long lasting outcomes in protecting and recovering Australia's unique and diverse species.

Image: Norfolk Island green parrot, Parks Australia

Front cover: Numbat, courtesy of Australian Wildlife Conservancy, W. Lawler



TACKLING FERAL CATS AND THEIR IMPACTS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Threatened animal recovery through feral cat control 	Numbat Woylie Black-flanked rock-wallaby Western ringtail possum Western quoll Western ground parrot	This project will enable feral cat control to be integrated with existing broadscale fox control in Western Australia. It aims to recover threatened animals through refining the use of the Eradicat® feral cat bait together with the Probait® fox bait in four different landscapes in Western Australia. The response of both feral cats and native non-target species to the baiting program will be monitored, and followed by translocations of threatened native species into the baited areas to promote those species' recovery. The project includes an education and awareness raising component for landholders and the community about the impact of feral cats and foxes on native animals and how programs like the Western Australian Government's Western Shield program are working to recover threatened species. The project will support the recovery of threatened native fauna across more than 850,000 hectares of conservation reserves in Western Australia.	WA	Western Australian Government Project Numbat Recovery teams	\$1,700,000 
Kimberley feral cat bait trial 	Northern quoll	This project will undertake a field trial of a hybrid Curiosity® 1080 bait in the Kimberley region of Western Australia to determine its effectiveness on feral cats and whether there is an impact on native non-target species. The project will collaborate with and train local Aboriginal rangers in feral cat management techniques and monitoring to deliver long term outcomes for threatened species and biodiversity in to the future. The new hybrid feral cat bait (Eradicat© and Curiosity© technology) reduces the risk of non-target uptake by northern quolls. Following successful trials, Eradicat has now been approved for use within WA.	WA	Western Australian Government 	\$250,000

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts









Protecting Australia's plants



Improving recovery practices

TACKLING FERAL CATS AND THEIR IMPACTS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Building on traditional tracking skills to develop a community cat control strike force team to protect threatened species from cat predation  	Greater bilby Great desert Skink Brush-tailed mulgara Marsupial mole	This project aims to integrate Traditional tracking methods with more modern technologies including leghold trapping, grooming traps, camera-traps and DNA analysis of scats to determine whether we can reduce predation pressure on bilby populations at two 10,000 ha sites in the Kiwirrkurra IPA. The project will build on existing tracking skills but also up skill eight Pintupi Trackers to produce a Community Cat Control Strike Force team proficient in tracking, baiting, trapping, shooting and use of detector dogs to control predators at priority sites on the IPA. The team will also be available for deployment to other important threatened species sites across arid Australia.	WA	Desert Wildlife Services Central Desert Native Title Services Kiwirrkurra Community	
Groote Eylandt biodiversity initiative   	Northern quoll Brush-tailed rabbit rat Pale field rat Northern hopping mouse	This project aims to improve the conservation security of Groote Eylandt - a critical island refuge for northern Australian threatened species such as the brush-tailed rabbit-rat. The project will improve understanding of threats to biodiversity on Groote Eylandt and beyond, and will test key aspects of the efficacy of using poison baits for feral cat control in Northern Australia. The project includes systematic surveying for threatened species and feral cats across the island, implementing a baiting programme and developing a long term management plan for the island. The project will also identify priority conservation areas and management actions to address a range of threats to several threatened species, including the northern quoll, brush-tailed rabbit rat, pale field rat and northern hopping mouse.	NT	Northern Territory Government 	\$235 000

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts










Protecting Australia's plants



Improving recovery practices

TACKLING FERAL CATS AND THEIR IMPACTS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Protecting the mountain pygmy-possum and Konoom (smoky mouse)  	Mountain pygmy possum Konoom (smoky mouse)	Through this project a full-time contractor will be employed as a dedicated cat and fox control officer. They will be trained to handle two cat and fox detection dogs to protect both the mountain pygmy possum and smoky mouse. At last one detector dog will be trained to detect smoky mice, which will greatly assist in the location and monitoring of this difficult to find critically endangered species. Two threatened species officers will also be trained to handle the dogs for both predator and threatened species detection.	NSW	New South Wales Government 	\$140,000
Optimising grooming traps for targeted feral cat control   	Greater bilby Woylie Warru Night Parrot Bridled nail-tail wallaby	This project will assist in developing and testing a new technology to help protect a wide range of cat-vulnerable species, including the bilby, woylie, warru, night parrot, bridle nail-tail wallaby. The Feral Cat Grooming Trap uses sensors to detect the presence of a feral cat sprays a lethal dose of toxic gel onto the fur of the animal as it is walking past. The feral cat instinctively grooms the gel from its body and in doing so ingests the lethal dose of the poison. This project will fine tune and enhance the durability and reliability of the grooming trap, and conduct field trials in Flinders Ranges National Park.	SA	Ecological Horizons Pty Ltd South Australian Government University of South Australia 	\$100,000

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts






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TACKLING FERAL CATS AND THEIR IMPACTS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Feral cat eradication on Kangaroo Island 	Various mammals and birds	<p>This project will provide a unique opportunity to control and eradicate feral cats across an entire environmental region (Kangaroo Island). Benefits of investment at this site includes border security (being an island); appropriate local government domestic cat enforcement; community support for both domestic and feral cat control; long history of previous cat management and research on KI will inform control techniques; absence of foxes, wild dogs and rabbits.</p> <p>There is also existing community support for the project with key stakeholders collaborating to ensure KI is cat free by 2030.</p> <p>The negative impacts of feral cats on Kangaroo Island are considerable and include predation on over 50 native animal species, spread of livestock diseases, and social impacts. Feral cats create an unwanted nuisance by wailing and defecating in public places, are visible at tourist attractions, and spread human diseases.</p>	SA	South Australian Government Kangaroo Island Council Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board	
National Feral CatScan app 	Feral cats	<p>Feral CatScan is a national feral cat mapping system for landholders, community groups, local councils, indigenous groups, NRM organisations and pest manager's expertise to record and centralise real-time information about feral cat activity (including cat impacts on native species).</p> <p>This project will trial Feral CatScan with the Kangaroo Island community, providing training and support to test the App for an Australia-wide rollout.</p> <p>The project will develop a Feral CatScan mobile phone application available for free download on iPhone and Android devices, to enable community and conservation groups to record and report feral cats and their impacts.</p>	NATIONAL	Invasive Animals CRC 	\$45,000

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts






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Improving recovery practices

SAFE HAVENS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Mt Gibson Endangered Wildlife Restoration Project  	Woylie Greater bilby Numbat Greater stick-nest rat Western quoll	<p>The project involves establishing the largest fox and cat-free area (7,800 hectares) on mainland Western Australia. AWC has constructed a specially-designed 43km feral-proof conservation fence at Mt Gibson and has removed all feral predators (cats, foxes) and competitors (rabbits, goats) from this area and declared it feral-free. In the next phase of the project, AWC will reintroduce nine of Australia's most threatened mammal species, including the bilby, numbat, woylie, western barred bandicoot, Shark Bay mouse, red-tailed phascogale, greater stick-nest rat, banded hare-wallaby and western quoll to this area and will start rebuilding wild populations of these species.</p> <p>This single project will provide a more secure future for 14% (one in seven) of Australia's 65 nationally threatened mammal species and will increase the global Numbat population by 33%.</p>	WA	Australian Wildlife Conservancy Western Australian Government	
Expansion of the captive breeding colony for numbat 	Numbat	<p>This project will double the capacity of the Numbat breeding facility at Perth Zoo so that more Numbats can be rewilded at key locations across Australia.</p> <p>Perth Zoo manages the only captive breeding facility for Numbats in the world. There are estimated to be less than 1,000 individuals in the wild which precludes wild-wild translocations. Numbats only rear a maximum of 4 young per year, have short breeding lives, and don't live long in the wild. These attributes mean that the establishment of new populations is now totally dependent on captive breeding.</p> <p>The Numbat has been slated for reintroduction into the three NSW re-wilding sites, Mount Gibson Sanctuary and Lorna Glen. This is in addition to any further releases in SW WA.</p>	WA	Western Australian Government Australian Wildlife Conservancy	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts



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SAFE HAVENS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Expanding a safe haven for threatened fauna in the WA rangelands  	Mala Boodie Numbat Western barred-bandicoot Golden bandicoot	<p>This project will expand the predator proof enclosure at Matuwa (a former pastoral lease at Lorna Glen) to 5,000 ha to provide for larger, more long-term, viable populations of the current species and allow the establishment of at least another three species of locally extinct mammal (western barred bandicoot, numbat, and pale field rat).</p> <p>The enclosure will provide a safe haven for 11 threatened mammals and will reduce predation by introduced species, particularly foxes and feral cats.</p>	WA	Western Australian Government Wiluna Martu traditional owners	
Establishment of a large feral-free area at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary 	Golden Bandicoot Greater bilby Mala Western Quoll	<p>The Newhaven Project involves establishing the one of the biggest ever feral cat and fox-free (fenced) areas in Australia, at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northern Territory. This two-stage project will establish a 100,000 hectare enclosure to protect nine threatened mammals including the golden bandicoot and the greater bilby. The project will be delivered by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy in collaboration with traditional owners, with indigenous rangers helping to deliver a range of activities including fire management, feral animal control and biological surveys.</p>	NT	Australian Wildlife Conservancy 	\$750 000
Supporting Waterfall Springs Conservation Foundation - brush-tailed rock-wallaby breeding facility 	Brush-tailed rock-wallaby	<p>This project will support the Waterfall Springs Wildlife Sanctuary to undertake actions that support a captive population of threatened Brush-tailed Rock wallabies. By working with 'Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby', the project will work towards the release, tracking and monitoring of an insurance population of Wallabies into the wild.</p>	NSW	Waterfall Springs Wildlife Sanctuary New South Wales Government 	\$70,000

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



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SAFE HAVENS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Northern Corroboree Frog enclosures 	Northern corroboree frog	This project will involve the construction of five specialised amphibian enclosures to protect critically endangered northern corroboree frogs at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The enclosures will re-establish breeding populations and will help the frogs to develop natural disease resistance to the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus - a key threatening process for the species.	ACT	ACT Government Kosciusko National Park	\$20,000 
Development of a nationally significant woodlands conservation sanctuary at Mulligans Flat  	Eastern bettong New holland mouse	This project is driven by a partnership between the Australian Government, the ACT Government and the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust to expand the Mulligan's Flat Woodland Sanctuary and provide a predator-free environment for listed threatened species including the Eastern Bettong (extinct on mainland Australia) and the New Holland Mouse. The project will improve habitat for these species through developing a box gum grassy woodland community with a full suite of flora and fauna acting at the landscape scale. Expanding the sanctuary is a vital conservation action for these species and will provide a benchmark vision for what can be achieved elsewhere.	ACT	ACT Government Woodlands and Wetlands Trust 	\$600,000
Safeguarding Australia's threatened eucalypts  	The 75 EPBC listed eucalypt species (including <i>Angophora</i> , <i>Eucalyptus</i> and <i>Corymbia</i>)	This project will build wild seed resources of EPBC listed Australian eucalypts, including those thought to be at risk of the plant disease myrtle rust. Through the project, hundreds of seed collections will be stored in conservation seed banking facilities to an international standard. These seed collections will be available for on-ground threatened species recovery activities and use for seed production areas.	National	Australian Seed Bank Partnership Australian National Botanic Gardens State botanic gardens	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts








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Improving recovery practices

SAFE HAVENS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Establishment of a feral predator-free area at Astrebla Downs National Park 	Greater bilby Kowari Plains mouse Plains wanderer	This project will see the establishment of a new feral-free area at Astrebla Downs National Park, managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. It will involve the establishment of an 8,000 hectare enclosure, staff facilities, as well as funding for the implementation of landscape scale conservation management (with a focus on feral predator control) across the unfenced area of the National Park. The project will deliver a significant and measurable increase in the population of at least three nationally listed mammals including the greater bilby, kowari and plains mouse.	QLD	Australian Wildlife Conservancy 	\$1,200,000
Expanding Victoria's threatened species safe havens. 	Eastern barred bandicoot Southern brush-tail rock-wallaby Southern-brown bandicoot Swift parrot Eastern bettong	This project aims to establish additional fenced reserves to expand and support threatened species programmes across Victoria. Feral proof fencing has proven to be successful in acting as a safeguard, and provides transition and rewilding establishment between captive breeding and wild releases. The enclosures will provide a robust risk mitigation strategy in case of catastrophic events (e.g. fire and disease), through establishing populations across a variety of separate locations, while also providing broader community involvement opportunities. The additional reserves (1,600+ ha) will increase the number of threatened species to be targeted for recovery will enable the long-term protection of these species from threats such as cats and foxes.	VIC	Mt Rothwell Macedon Shire Council Victorian Government Recovery teams	
Eastern barred bandicoot recovery actions 	Eastern barred bandicoot	This project will increase the genetic variation and fitness of Victorian eastern barred bandicoots through the capture and translocation of approximately 26 Tasmanian eastern barred bandicoots to a fox-free predator proof conservation park at Mt Rothwell. This project is crucial for increasing the genetic diversity of the existing breeding programme so that a larger population can be held and a greater number of animals can be provided to reintroduction programmes in the future.	VIC	Victorian Government 	\$55,000

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



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IMPROVING HABITAT

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Restoring central Australian water places for biodiversity outcomes  	Red cabbage palm Black-footed rock-wallaby Brush-tailed mulgara	This project will contribute to the conservation of several threatened plants and animals including the red cabbage palm, brush-tailed mulgara and the black-footed rock-wallaby. Utilising Indigenous Knowledge, the project will involve the restoration of four biodiversity-rich spring sites, training of local land managers and development of guidelines for wetland restoration techniques in arid Australia.	NT	Northern Territory Government Central Land Council University of Canberra Pastoralists	\$320,000 
Conservation actions for the hooded plover 	Hooded plover	This project will undertake banding and genetic analysis on hooded plovers to understand differences in two fragmented sub-populations in NSW. The study aims to increase knowledge of the hooded plover through flagging and banding plovers, with spatial and genetic analysis undertaken to gain crucial information for understanding interactions between the two populations to improve management actions and protect this important threatened species.	NSW	New South Wales Government 	\$40,000
Woodland restoration through Alzheimer's volunteering  	White box - yellow box - Blakely's red gum grassy woodlands and derived native grasslands	This project will build on an important partnership project between Alzheimer's Australia ACT and Greening Australia that supports volunteers who are living with Younger Onset Dementia to volunteer weekly at the Greening Australia Canberra Community Nursery.	ACT	Alzheimer's Australia ACT Greening Australia	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



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IMPROVING HABITAT

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
'Here be dragons' - ensuring the future of the grassland earless dragon.	Grassland earless dragon	<p>This project will establish a captive insurance population of the endangered grassland earless dragons. The project will breed and reintroduce this species back to the wild to recover the existing population and increase their current range.</p> <p>The captive population would be established across a number of institutions (i.e. institutions may include ACT's Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Melbourne Zoo) to help prevent the loss of the species should wild populations become extinct.</p> <p>A small population of captive individuals, based in the University of Canberra, have been used as the basis for breeding and reintroduction trials. These individuals will be used as the basis for the larger insurance population.</p>	ACT	ACT Government University of Canberra	
Improving the condition of native temperate grassland sites within the open space network in Canberra. 	Grassland earless dragon Striped legless lizard Golden sun moth Multiple threatened plant species	<p>This project will improve the condition of native temperate grassland sites within the open space network in Canberra to support the recovery of a suite of threatened grassland species.</p> <p>The project will trial positive disturbance approaches to grassland management through fire, grazing, planting tube stock, slashing and complementary weed and pest animal control.</p>	ACT	ACT Government Landcare	\$4,651 

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts











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IMPROVING HABITAT

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Kangaroo Island goat eradication programme - the final phase  	Glossy black-cockatoo	This project on Kangaroo Island is the final phase of an ambitious feral mammal eradication project. This phase will aim to eradicate feral goats from the Island to protect its unique biodiversity and ecosystems. The project will target the remaining population of feral goats to reduce pressures on glossy black-cockatoo habitat and prevent further impacts on native plants.	SA	South Australian Government	\$92,500 
Implementation of dedicated management for a nationally threatened species hotspot at Mt Lewis, Mt Spurgeon and Mt Windsor National Parks   	Northern bettong Northern quoll Spotted-tailed quoll Southern cassowary	This project will implement dedicated land management at three biodiversity-rich National Parks in northern Queensland. Mt Lewis, Mt Spurgeon and Mt Windsor National Parks are a hotspot for threatened species, particularly threatened mammals. The Australian Wildlife Conservancy will work with Queensland National Parks to undertake feral animal control, fire management, weed control, biological surveys and scientific research to protect at least 16 nationally threatened species including the northern quoll, southern cassowary and northern bettong.	QLD	Australian Wildlife Conservancy Queensland Government	\$200,000 
Achieving breeding success for hooded plovers 	Hooded plover	This project will manage disturbance by visitors (and their dogs) on the higher visitation beaches through developing educational material, erecting new signs, carrying out compliance activities and nest protection. The project will also carry out monitoring of Hooded Plover populations and investigate key threats. This includes monitoring breeding success, the health of populations, effectiveness of management actions and tracking the survival of individuals, in particular chicks. It will also monitor visitor numbers and the effectiveness of signs erected to protect the birds.	Vic	Birdlife Australia Victorian Government	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts





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IMPROVING HABITAT

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Building a wildlife corridor for Mountain pygmy-possums at Mount Hotham 	Mountain pygmy-possum	This project will construct a crucial rock-filled wildlife corridor and culvert under the Great Alpine Road to link the upper and lower sections of boulderfield habitat at Mt Little Higginbotham located at Cherokee Corner.	Vic	Victorian Government	
Protecting and restoring priority threatened woodland bird 'hotspots' 	Swift parrot Regent honeyeater Superb parrot South east red-tailed black-cockatoo	This project will protect and restore important woodland bird habitat through habitat improvement and land protection measures. Data on threatened woodland bird species has been mapped and ranked to determine habitat of the greatest value to threatened and declining woodland birds. These 'hotspots' identify priority areas, such as refugia, which can be assessed and used to direct priority recovery actions such as restoration (tree planting), protection (covenanting) and/or other management activities (control of invasive species, fencing), depending on the pressure faced at those sites. The project delivers priority actions identified in the national recovery plans of EPBC listed species in consultation with the recovery teams for those species.	Vic	BirdLife Australia Recovery Teams Victorian Government Local community groups Farmers	
Managing the impacts of Carp in Lake Sorrell to protect endangered freshwater fish	Golden galaxias Southern bell frog	this project will protect the endangered Golden galaxias through the removal and eradication of carp in Lake Sorrel. The project will involve spatial monitoring of carp using radio transmitters to enable timely harvesting of aggregating carp; using an extensive barrier, trap and gill net system to ensure that spawning is prevented	Tas	Tasmanian Government	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts








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EMERGENCY INTERVENTION TO AVERT EXTINCTIONS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
Emergency Intervention - West MacDonnell ranges central rock-rat conservation 	Central rock-rat Long-tailed dunnart Black-footed rock-wallaby	<p>This project will establish and pilot an aerial baiting program to assess the potential for strategic cat control in and around the rugged mammal refuge areas of the West MacDonnell Ranges. The project will involve aerial baiting using Eradicat baits, with an intensive monitoring program to determine the effectiveness for protecting small mammals.</p> <p>The project will also collect valuable information about the location and density of several threatened species including the central rock-rat, long-tailed dunnart, brush tail possum and black-footed rock-wallaby and will strategically address the identified threat from cats to these species in the West MacDonnell Ranges.</p>	NT	Northern Territory Government 	\$220,000
Emergency conservation actions for the plains wanderer 	Plains wanderer	The plains wanderer is an inland shorebird endemic to Australia. It is considered one of the most evolutionarily distinct birds in the world. This project will deliver emergency conservation actions for the plains wanderer, including improving habitat through rabbit control and woody weed removal. The project will also involve a workshop to assess the feasibility and design for a captive breeding programme as an essential step towards an insurance population.	NSW	New South Wales Government 	\$100,000
Improving scientific understand of the grey falcon 	Grey falcon	<p>This project would allow for the first ever study of grey falcon ecology, behaviour and threats to survival. Almost 70% of all breeding events of the species recorded since 2004 have occurred on Telstra repeater stations.</p> <p>The significance of Telstra repeater stations for the grey falcon's survival cannot be overstated. Grey falcons greatly benefit from the repeater towers by being absolutely safe from terrestrial predators such as feral cats, goannas, snakes and ants. Further, high up on the repeaters the breeding falcons remain unmolested from smaller birds that often harass breeding and roosting raptors.</p>	QLD	University of Queensland CSIRO	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



Tackling feral cats and their impacts





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EMERGENCY INTERVENTION TO AVERT EXTINCTIONS

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	
<p>Save the orange-bellied parrot program: implementation of critical recovery actions in Tasmania</p> 	Orange-bellied parrot	<p>This project will undertake crucial monitoring and management actions at the orange-bellied parrot breeding site at Melaleuca, in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.</p> <p>It will provide essential support to the captive-bred population of orange-bellied parrots and will facilitate actions to release of captive-bred birds into the wild. The project will include the provision, monitoring and improvement of nesting boxes specifically designed to reduce predation on Orange-bellied Parrots and competition with other species.</p> <p>The project also aims to decrease the spread of beak and feather disease, and increase understanding of the impact of the disease on the parrot's recovery.</p>	Tas	<p>Tasmanian Government</p> <p>Wildcare Inc.</p> 	\$525,000

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



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NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



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Improving recovery practices

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Proposal title	Key species	Summary	State	Partners	

TARGETS



20 birds by 2020



20 mammals by 2020



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