



Australian Government

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PROGRESS REPORT

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TO THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND ENERGY JUL 16 - DEC 17



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Department of the Environment and Energy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their Elders both past and present. We are committed to working respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and give particular acknowledgement to their use, knowledge and custodianship of Australia's native plants and animals over countless generations.

The Department supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their aspirations to maintain, protect and manage their culture, language, land and sea country and heritage. For more information please see the [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

I am proud to deliver this progress report, which reflects the work of my office and predecessors. This is the fourth report on the Australian Government's efforts to fight threatened species extinction. It also marks more than two years since the release of the Threatened Species Strategy.

Key achievements during this period include:

- Mobilising over \$255 million for projects that include outcomes for threatened species.
- Providing a competitive grants round under the Threatened Species Recovery Fund.
- Launching Australia's first Threatened Species Prospectus.
- Raising awareness of Australia's threatened species through the use of innovative engagement techniques.
- Increasing momentum and action under the Threatened Species Strategy.

In addition, we have maintained our close working relationships with the community, Indigenous Australians, scientists, zoos, other governments, and on-ground practitioners. This collective effort continues to drive on-ground action and momentum for threatened species recovery. We all have a role to play and I would like to thank our partners for their continuing commitment and passion to saving Australia's threatened species.

I would also like to thank my predecessors, Mr Gregory Andrews and Mr Sebastian Lang. Australia's first Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, was instrumental to the success of the Threatened Species Commissioner model and Threatened Species Strategy so far. Sebastian Lang continued this work as Acting Commissioner and was very helpful with my transition into the role.

The focus remains firmly on driving more action and effort towards achieving the year three targets in the Strategy. We are tracking well and will continue to grow and leverage investment to create a brighter future for our threatened species.

My commencement as the new Commissioner also provides an opportunity to reflect on our efforts to date, and consider areas for increased focus and improvement. We are working with our colleagues in the Department to evaluate our effectiveness and we will use this to guide continuous improvement across our work.

For anyone interested in a conversation about threatened species, or in learning more about how Australia is fighting extinction, there is an open invitation to join the Commissioner's [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) page.



Dr Sally Box
Threatened Species Commissioner



SAVING SPECIES SUCCESS STORIES

November 2016

Following emergency baiting in August, a **reduction in cat numbers** and **boost in central rock-rat** numbers detected in the Western MacDonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory

March 2017

240 critically endangered southern corroboree frogs released into disease-free enclosures at Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales

Night parrots sighted for the first time in Western Australia

April 2017

Eastern bettongs bred on the mainland for the first time in 100 years at Mulligan's Flat, Australian Capital Territory

Almost **100 critically endangered regent honeyeaters** released into the wild at Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park, Victoria

Norfolk Island green parrots translocated to nearby Phillip Island, New South Wales

May 2017

Black-flanked rock-wallabies reported to have doubled in Kalbarri National Park, Western Australia

July 2017

First successful **gene-pool widening event for the eastern barred bandicoot** occurred in Victoria

October 2017

Artificial nests for the shy albatross deployed on Albatross Island

90 eastern barred bandicoots released on Phillip Island, Victoria

Night parrots sighted for the second time in Western Australia

November 2017

200 more purple wattles discovered in north Queensland

December 2017

400 more Morrisby's gums discovered in Tasmania



MOBILISING RESOURCES

Under the Threatened Species Commissioner model we have sought to build momentum and mobilise resources to support threatened species recovery. Since the establishment of the Commissioner model in 2014, we have mobilised more than \$255 million for over 1200 projects that include outcomes for threatened species. Through this funding, we are helping to improve or maintain populations of our threatened species and ecological communities by improving habitat quality and connectivity, carrying out critical scientific experiments, removing threats, or by undertaking direct interventions to boost threatened species populations.

The National Landcare Program (NLP) continues to be a key investment in Australia's natural resources and supports the Threatened Species Recovery Fund, Landcare Networks, the 20 Million Trees program and Australia's 56 regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations. The combination of these important and well-designed programs ensures that on-ground work to fight extinction continues with the help of local communities. The new \$450 million investment into Regional Land Partnerships is a significant commitment to biodiversity and we look forward to identifying, collaborating and promoting projects that provide positive outcomes for threatened species.

The National Environmental Science Program continues to grow and drive significant action by supporting the latest research into threatened species. I am confident this research will continue to provide the science needed for saving species.

We also continue to build partnerships with the philanthropic and business community to identify opportunities and leverage additional resources for threatened species. The Threatened Species Prospectus, launched in February 2017, has been a catalyst for collaboration with a range of organisations.

RECENT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 25 January 2017 – [Minister Frydenberg announced \\$475,000 for 8 new projects under the Threatened Species Strategy](#)
- 17 March 2017 – [\\$86,000 Norfolk Island Green Parrot Crowdfunding campaign successful](#)
- 5 June 2017 – [Minister Frydenberg announced \\$29 million in additional funding for threatened species on World Environment Day](#)
- 7 September 2017 – [Minister Frydenberg announced 19 new grants from the Threatened Species Recovery Fund](#)
- 8 December 2017 – [Minister Frydenberg announced \\$18 million funding boost under the 20 Million Trees program](#)

Funding mobilised since July 2014 until December 2017		
Program	Number of projects	Funding mobilised
20 Million Trees		
Grant Round 1: 2014-15	50	\$3,940,936
West Melbourne	1	\$5,000,000
Cumberland Corridors Grants Round	13	\$4,565,441
National Service Provider - Tranche 1	22	\$16,320,513
National Service Provider - Tranche 2	10	\$7,286,382
Grant Round 2: 2015-16	63	\$4,903,078
National Service Provider - Tranche 3	12	\$14,000,000
Grant Round 3: 2016-17	52	\$4,202,210
National Landcare Program		
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	92	\$1,594,500
Tasmanian Devil Conservation Projects	3	\$3,300,000
National Environmental Science Program		
Threatened Species Recovery Hub	22	\$29,980,000
Threatened Species Targeted Projects		
Commonwealth National Parks	11	\$2,500,000
Targeted Threatened Species projects – 2015	11	\$722,000
Targeted Threatened Species Summit Projects	20	\$6,667,151
National Bilby Festival and Western Ground Parrot Workshop	2	\$45,000
Kangaroo Island and Bruny Island cat eradication	2	\$1,181,500
Threatened Species Recovery Fund	30	\$5,000,000
Targeted Threatened Species Strategy Projects – 2017	7	\$392,573
Targeted Threatened Species Projects – Emerging Priorities	8	\$1,095,000
Marine threatened species initiatives		
Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program	13	\$3,791,877
Raine Island Recovery Project	1	\$400,000
Turtle and Dugong Protection Plan	4	\$5,000,000
Green Army Program		
Rounds 1-4	645	\$113,992,462
Election commitments	112	\$19,990,000
Grand Total	1206	\$255,890,622

- Funding is for a broad range of activities, including threatened species conservation activities.
- Figures provided for the Green Army are approximate and are calculated on the 2015-16 indexed figure of \$176,732. Election Commitments are calculated on the 2016-17 indexed figure of \$178,482.
- Funding for some projects is provided in partnership with state & territory governments.
- A total of \$29.98 million has been committed for the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub. As at Dec 2017, 22 projects had been announced with further projects under consideration.
- A total of \$5 million has been approved and announced for the Threatened Species Recovery Fund. As at Dec 2017, 30 projects under the fund have been initiated with further projects under consideration.



THREATENED SPECIES RECOVERY FUND

In 2016, the Australian Government announced a dedicated \$5 million Threatened Species Recovery Fund, supported by the National Landcare Program. The Recovery Fund was put in place to support the excellent work undertaken by local community groups fighting extinction. When the Recovery Fund was announced, nine projects were also launched and these are now underway with action on the ground.

In May 2017, a competitive grants round of the Threatened Species Recovery Fund was launched where more than 300 project applications were received from across Australia. The high response and standard of applications is testament to our industrious conservation community in Australia and its commitment to fighting extinction.

For Threatened Species Day on 7 September 2017, the Minister for the Environment and Energy the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP announced the 19 successful projects from the competitive grants round, valued at \$3.117 million. These new projects are beginning now with action on the ground. We look forward to sharing more updates on these great projects as they roll out over the next 18 months.

Under the Recovery Fund, Minister Frydenberg has been able to fund important strategic projects that align closely with the Threatened Species Strategy. The first two strategic projects were announced on 11 May 2017, and support the creation of feral free island safe-havens on French Island in Victoria and West Island in the Northern Territory.

The Recovery Fund has been such an important opportunity to enable on-ground conservation practitioners to deliver positive outcomes for threatened species. It is delivering improved habitat for helmeted honeyeaters, critical disease research for parrots and another insurance population of Gilbert's potoroo, just to name a few.

You can read the details of each project on the [National Landcare Program website](#).





Mallee emu-wren given a lifeline through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund

Our incredible mallee emu-wren was on the brink of extinction. In 2014, the tiny, blue-breasted wren became extinct in South Australia due to large wildfires. Today, it is only found in three closely located Victorian populations.

On Threatened Species Day in 2017, the mallee emu-wren received \$225,000 through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund. This funding was provided to the Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) Management Board to transfer 60-80 birds back into South Australia in order to re-establish a population. This work is also providing valuable insight for future translocations of the species. This latest funding builds on a \$100,000 investment from the Australian Government that enabled the science and planning for translocation.

The mallee emu-wren is one of 20 priority birds targeted for recovery under the Threatened Species Strategy and we are working hard to improve its trajectory by 2020. By re-establishing a population in South Australia, we are reducing the immediate extinction risk to the species. We must then work to protect and recover the populations across South Australia and Victoria.

Undertaking a translocation like this requires a huge effort and needs many committed partners. This project will be delivered by the SAMDB Management Board, Zoos SA, Birdlife Australia, Rotary, the Victorian Government, Zoos Victoria and a number of universities. Along with these partners, the project is drawing on national experts from the Threatened Mallee Birds Steering Committee, and the local community. By working together with such a wide range of passionate people, we boost the chance of saving the mallee emu-wren.



THREATENED SPECIES PROSPECTUS

Strong partnerships are critical to saving our threatened species. They bring together volunteers, community and conservation groups, scientists, farmers, businesses, and state and territory governments, to protect the bush and its wildlife. By working together, we can effectively prioritise and maximise resources to protect threatened species and find enduring solutions.

On 20 February 2017, Minister Frydenberg launched the [Threatened Species Prospectus](#) at Taronga Zoo. The Prospectus invites the business, industry and the philanthropic sectors to join us in the fight against extinction and builds on our approach of using science, action and partnership to recover threatened species. This Prospectus showcases 51 important, action-oriented projects that are ready to deliver results for our threatened plants and animals. These projects will benefit an identified 211 (16%) of Australia's threatened plants, 39 (36%) threatened mammals and 25 (18%) threatened birds.

The launch event was attended by a wide range of interested partners including Qantas, Rio Tinto Group, National Australia Bank and other members of Sustainable Business Australia. The US Consul General Valerie Fowler also attended and called upon US businesses to invest in saving our native species. Since then, we have engaged heads of 50 ASX listed companies, received enquiries from a range of interested funders and promoted the Prospectus at a number of events across Australia.

Since its launch in February 2017, the Prospectus has mobilised commitments for Australia's plants and animals to the value of more than \$6 million. For example, San Diego Zoo Global has committed to fund a \$500,000 project to support the platypus and at least five threatened freshwater fish species.

Organisations like Birdlife Australia, the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species and World Wildlife Fund Australia are partnering with the Australian Government through the Prospectus to mobilise significant philanthropic contributions. We have also promoted crowdfunding as an opportunity for individual citizens to contribute to Prospectus projects. Some \$86,000 was raised by Birdlife Australia to establish an insurance population of the Norfolk Island green parrot, in partnership with Parks Australia.



Project	Page	State	Lead Delivery Partners	Action update (All figures are GST exclusive)
Supporting Two-Way Science: Bilby Protection the Aboriginal Way	12	WA	Bush Heritage Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was successful through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund Open Round, which mobilised \$218,020 in Australian Government funding for this project. Additional contributions leveraged from Bush Heritage Australia and Central Desert Native Title Services total \$131,400.
Cockies Saving Cockys: Saving the South Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo	14	SA	BirdLife Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BirdLife Australia approached the Australian Government with a partnership opportunity to help protect these parrots. The Australian Government mobilised \$75,000 towards the project from the National Landcare Program. Additional contributions leveraged from South East NRM Board and Birdlife Australia total \$35,000.
Ensuring Western Australian Threatened Plants Have a Future	17	WA	WA Department of Parks and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Government has mobilised \$200,000 in funding from the National Landcare Program to enable work to begin on this project. Additional contributions leveraged from WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions total \$121,500.
Saving the Platypus and Threatened Australian Freshwater Fish Species	18	VIC/ NSW	Cesar and the University of Melbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Diego Zoo Global has agreed to fully fund this project with a \$500,000 commitment.
Establishing a New Island Safe Haven for the Norfolk Island Green Parrot	23	NSW	Parks Australia and BirdLife Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner, BirdLife Australia and Parks Australia partnered to launch a crowdsourcing initiative, which generated \$86,000 towards the project.
Saving Australia's only Purple Wattle	28	QLD	Bush Heritage Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australia Government has mobilised \$80,000 in funding from the National Landcare Program to support this project. Additional contributions leveraged from CSIRO, NSW Herbarium and Bush Heritage Australia total \$23,899.
Bringing Alwal, the Golden-Shouldered Parrot, Home	31	QLD	Olkola Aboriginal Corporation and Bush Heritage Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Government has mobilised \$90,000 in funding from the National Landcare Program. Additional contributions leveraged from Bush Heritage Australia and Queensland's Department of Environment and Heritage total \$176,000.
Establishing the Eastern Barred-Bandicoot on Phillip Island	36	VIC	Phillip Island Nature Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerable contributions are being made by Zoos Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, the VIC Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and the Ian Potter Foundation to deliver elements of this project.

Project	Page	State	Lead Delivery Partners	Action update (All figures are GST exclusive)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Commissioner's office, we have also been able to secure a \$10,000 contribution from the Conservation and Wildlife Research Trust.
Saving the Regent Honeyeater from Extinction	41	VIC	Birdlife Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was successful through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund Open round, which mobilised \$249,570 for this project. Additional contributions from various organisations (Lurg Regent Honeyeater project volunteers, Capertee Valley project volunteers, North East Water, Parks Victoria, Indigo Council, North East Catchment Management Authority, VIC Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, community and school groups, Sporting Shooters Association and Birdlife Australia) total \$329,890.
Saving One of Australia's Most Threatened Eucalypts	42	TAS	NRM South (Tasmania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was successful through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund Open Round, which mobilised \$82,000 in Australian Government funding for this project. The project extends beyond the Prospectus proposal and also leverages \$15,000 from the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Additional contributions from seven organisations (Conservation Volunteers Australia, Understorey Network, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, Threatened Plants Tasmania, Wildcare Inc, University of Tasmania – School of Plant Sciences, NRM South, and TAS Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment) total \$272,651.
Boosting Numbat Populations For the Future	45	WA	WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Government mobilised \$150,000 in funding from the National Landcare Program towards elements of this project. Additional contributions leveraged from the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species and WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions total \$160,000.
Returning the Warru (Black-Footed Rock Wallaby) to Country	48	SA	Zoos SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Government mobilised \$200,000 in funding from the National Landcare Program for this project. Additional contributions from four organisations (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Management, Natural Resources Alinytjijara Wilurara, Zoos SA, Volunteers) total \$717,290.
Building the World's Largest Island Safe Haven	58	SA	Kangaroo Island NRM, Kangaroo Island Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was successful through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund Open Round, which mobilised \$236,500 in Australian Government funding for this project. Additional contributions from various groups (Softfoot Wildlife sanctuaries, SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Natural Resources Kangaroo Island, Landholders, Friends of Parks groups, Kangaroo Island NRM Board, and Kangaroo Island Council) total \$475,500.

Project	Page	State	Lead Delivery Partners	• Action update (All figures are GST exclusive)
Returning the Mallee Emu-Wren to South Australia	62	SA/VIC	BirdLife Australia, Zoos SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was successful through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund Open Round, which mobilised \$225,322 in Australian Government funding for this project. • Additional contributions leveraged from eight organisations (Zoos Victoria, VIC Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Threatened Bird Network, RLB Ecology, Zoos SA, SAMDB NRM Board, Rotary Murray Bridge) total \$266,264.
Aussie Ark – A Refuge for Threatened Australian Mammals	67	NSW	Australian Wildlife Ark inc. (Aussie Ark)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner has continued to promote the merits of this project and was guest speaker at a dinner held by Aussie Ark where funds were raised for the project.
Emergency Interventions to Save the Orange-Bellied Parrot	71	NSW	Priam Psittaculture Centre Research and Breeding, Charles Sturt University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of this project were successful through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund Open Round, which mobilised \$250,000 in funding from the Australian Government for vaccination protocols for controlling psittacine beak and feather disease. • Additional contributions leveraged from five organisations (Priam Psittaculture, Zoos Victoria, TAS Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Charles Sturt University) total \$273,362.
Saving the Western Ground Parrot from Extinction	77	WA	WA Department of Parks and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots have agreed to contribute \$200,000 to this project. The project was brought to their attention when they were provided a copy of the Threatened Species Prospectus. • The Friends of the Western Ground parrot are also contributing \$30,000 for the recovery program and to support the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions field team.
Securing Survival for the Critically Endangered Plains Wanderer	83	VIC/NSW	Taronga Conservation Society Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable investment is being made by the NSW and Victorian governments to deliver elements of this project.
Preventing the Decline of the Shy Albatross	113	TAS	Tasmanian Government, WWF Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian Government mobilised \$100,000 in funding from the National Landcare Program towards this project. • Additional contributions leveraged from four organisations total \$164,250 (Tasmanian Albatross Fund, WWF Australia, TAS Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment and CSIRO)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement has continued to be a priority for the Commissioner and we have had a hugely successful year. The Commissioner spoke at significant conferences and symposiums, met with scientists in the field, facilitated a visit of Traditional Owners to Canberra to share knowledge, held community roundtable discussions, and took part in national days of celebration and awareness raising.

Through engaging with a wide range of conservation practitioners, we have greater insight into the various approaches for protecting and recovering our threatened species across Australia. We have had the privilege to meet with local communities and witness the incredible work underway that is powered by passionate and dedicated volunteers, and supported by the Australian Government. We are continuing to gain a better understanding of what is needed on the ground now and also into the future, and how government can better work with the community.

We were thrilled to be invited to international gatherings, twice, to share our experiences on threatened species recovery. In September 2016, Commissioner Andrews was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums annual meeting in San Diego. We had the privilege of sharing the story of Australia's fight against extinction with approximately 2,000 delegates from across America. In February 2017, Commissioner Andrews visited New Zealand, at invitation from the New Zealand Threatened Species Ambassador, to help guide the preparation of their Threatened Species Strategy. In May, the Commissioner returned to participate in the launch of the NZ Strategy.

The Commissioner's social media profile has continued to go from strength-to-strength over the last year. We have grown our platforms to now include Instagram and had success with innovative engagement

activities. Social media remains one of our most powerful tools for encouraging policy discussion, raising awareness of threatened species issues, and broadcasting the conservation efforts of community groups and organisations.

We were also honoured to receive the Invasive Species Council's Annual Communication award for our efforts to engage with the public and raise awareness about the impact of feral cats and other invasive species.



#TSBakeOff, livestreaming and a yellow mohawk on Sunrise

We have trialled new ways of using social and traditional media to engage a broader audience and continue to build support for threatened species recovery.

By far the most successful and enjoyable social media endeavour was the Threatened Species Bake Off in 2017. To raise the profile of Threatened Species Day, the public was invited to bake a threatened species-themed dessert and post the photos to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, using the hashtag #TSBakeOff. We received over 100 entries from all across Australia, with media coverage from Australian Geographic, ABC and Channel Nine. Entries were judged by journalist and commentator Ms Annabel Crabb, ecologist Dr Rebecca West and Commissioner Andrews.



On a number of occasions, we livestreamed threatened species events to allow a broader audience to engage directly with the Commissioner. Our first livestream took people behind the scenes at the release of 100 critically endangered regent honeyeaters into Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park in Victoria. The stream was viewed more than 4,800 times with people

engaging in real time with the event. Our second livestream took place at a Community Roundtable Meeting held in Canberra in June 2017. During the event, viewers were able ask questions and have them answered during the meeting. This proved successful, with over 243 comments received and the majority of questions addressed. Our most recent livestream event invited people to join us on Threatened Species Day at Parliament House, where a range of threatened species were present and projects were announced under the Threatened Species Recovery Fund. Livestreaming offers a unique opportunity for people to directly connect with the threatened species initiatives and the Commissioner.

Finally, Commissioner Andrews took to breakfast television to raise both money for, and awareness of, the fight against extinction. In October 2016, the Commissioner appeared live on Channel Seven's Sunrise program as part of a fund raising challenge to have his hair shaved and dyed into a yellow Mohawk. This raised almost \$3,000 for the species through the Edge Pledge fundraising platform. Sunrise averages 527,000 viewers nationally.





NEXT STEPS - TOWARDS YEAR THREE

Threatened Species Strategy Year Three Report

On 2 December 2016, the first report on the implementation of the Threatened Species Strategy was released. It described our efforts against the year one targets in the Strategy, which were overwhelmingly positive. Of the 26 targets due in year one, 21 were completed in full, seven of these were overachieved, and five were partially met. The full report is available on the [Department of the Environment and Energy's website](#).

The Strategy has been in place for just over two years and we have started to see some fantastic results across Australia. Momentum to implement the Strategy has remained strong and we have continued to embed action to fight extinction into business as usual for the Department. Beyond on-the-ground action, we have included a focus on strategic planning to strengthen our approach. We held the third and fourth National Feral Cat Taskforce meetings, funded a best-practice island eradication workshop for ten Australian islands, undertook public consultation on Recovery Team Governance – Best Practice Guidelines and announced the [30 priority plants under the Strategy](#) on 7 September 2016.

The next formal report against the Strategy is due in late 2018 and will outline our efforts against the year three targets. Between reports, and to ensure accountability, the Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner prepares annual reporting on progress against each of the targets. This allows the Department to focus effort where it is most needed and better track the impacts of our investments. Progress against the year three targets can be found at the back of this report.

Each year, we look to review effort against the Strategy targets, to ensure action is directed where it is most needed. We also take time to reflect on the direction of the Action Plan in the Strategy and assess opportunities to apply new knowledge to enhance its relevance and effectiveness. There is always room to adapt our approach and consider how best to address any emerging priorities. This will be a key focus in the lead up to year three reporting.

Threatened Species Prospectus

The Threatened Species Prospectus has enjoyed early success as a 'signal' to the private sector that threatened species recovery is looking for partnerships. A number of projects have been successfully brokered and are underway. Notwithstanding its positive start, the concept is relatively new to government and we have identified some aspects of the Prospectus to strengthen for the future. As we continue to promote projects in the Prospectus to potential investors, we will look to establish enduring reporting arrangements to track the ongoing interest and investment in Prospectus projects, along with the outcomes these projects achieve for threatened species.

National Landcare Program – Phase 2

In 2017, the Australian Government announced a \$1 billion investment in the next phase of the National Landcare Program (NLP). Building on the first phase, the NLP will continue to connect and engage with local communities as part of its efforts to protect Australia's unique environment and natural resources. The Program will work in partnership with governments, industry, communities and individuals to protect and conserve Australia's natural resources, including threatened species. We are continuing to work closely with our colleagues in the Department to embed a threatened species focus into our programs and look forward to some fantastic threatened species outcomes from the next phase of the NLP.



TARGET TRACKING

KEY



Met



On track for completion by due date



Further data collection and analysis required



Medium risk to completion by due date



High risk to completion by due date

YEAR ONE TARGETS

REMAINING YEAR ONE TARGETS

Curiosity® cat bait approved and deployed

Ongoing. Assessment by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority is continuing. A commercialisation strategy is being progressed within the Department of the Environment and Energy.



Database of all recovery teams made publicly available

Ongoing. Consultation is underway seeking interest from recovery teams in national registration. Details of these recovery teams will be progressively added to a publicly available database as recovery teams register interest, and have their Terms of Reference accepted.



Australian Government, in consultation with the states and territories, publishes best practice guidelines for recovery team governance

Complete. The Recovery Team Governance Best practice guidelines are available on the Department of the Environment and Energy [website](#).



Australian Government, in consultation with the states and territories, establishes method to allow recovery teams to report annually on progress, with a focus on recovery actions and outcomes

Complete. The Recovery Team Annual Progress Report – Guidelines were made available on the Department of the Environment and Energy [website](#). The report remains as a “Draft for Consultation” while an on-line version of the report is developed and trialled.



PROGRESS TOWARDS YEAR THREE

FERAL CATS

Eradication of feral cats underway on five identified islands

The five islands have been identified (Christmas Island, Bruny Island, Kangaroo Island, French Island and Dirk Hartog Island) and action is underway on each island. Other islands are also being investigated, such as West Island.



Five remaining mainland feral-free areas identified and with actions underway

Work is underway to scope remaining areas. In areas that have been identified, action is underway with delivery partners, including state and territory governments, non-government organisations and the science community.



Five million hectares of cat control, using the best techniques for each location

Different techniques are being used across Australia for landscape management including aerial baiting, skilled shooting and trapping, detector dogs, exclusion fencing, cat squirter traps and Indigenous hunting. We have supported over 1.4 million hectares of cat management in Western Australia alone.

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) has been contracted to complete the second national feral cat control survey, which will include an assessment of hectares of cat control. Results from this survey will be included in year three reporting.



Best practice feral cat management across 1 million hectares of Commonwealth land

Efforts to tackle the impact of feral cats is underway at Christmas Island, Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks. A new \$500,000 investment for feral cat knockdown in Commonwealth National Parks is helping to deliver on this target.

RMIT has been contracted to complete the second national feral cat control survey, which will include an assessment of cat control on Commonwealth land. Results from this survey will be included in year three reporting.



1 million feral cats culled at the national level	RMIT has been contracted to complete the second national feral cat control survey, which will include an assessment of the number of feral cats culled. Results from this survey will be included in year three reporting.	●
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MAMMALS		
Action underway for all 20 mammals to improve their population trajectory	All 20 mammals identified in the Strategy have projects underway that contribute to their recovery.	✓
At least 10 identified mammals demonstrating an improved trajectory	Data collection and analysis is underway to deliver robust reporting against this target in year three.	●
Projects evaluated and management adapted where required	A continuous improvement approach is central to the implementation of the Threatened Species Strategy. The Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner regularly evaluates projects and action to-date.	●



BIRDS		
Action underway for all 20 birds to improve their population trajectory	All 20 birds identified in the Strategy have projects underway that contribute to their recovery.	✓
At least 10 identified birds demonstrating an improved trajectory	Data collection and analysis is underway to deliver robust reporting against this target in year three.	●
Projects evaluated and management adapted where required	A continuous improvement approach is central to the implementation of the Threatened Species Strategy. The Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner regularly evaluates projects and action to-date.	●

PLANTS

Recovery actions underway for at least 30 threatened plants	Recovery actions are underway for 27 threatened plant species through the 20 Million Trees Program. This is in addition to over 100 threatened plant species benefiting from Green Army projects since the release of the Strategy.	●
Recovery actions underway for at least 40 threatened ecological community sites	Recovery actions are underway through the 20 Million Trees Program at 54 threatened ecological community sites across Australia.	✓
At least 50 per cent of Australia's known threatened plant species stored in conservation seedbanks	The National Seedbank Partnership, with support from the Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner, is collecting seed from across Australia, with an initial focus on Kakadu National Park.	●

RECOVERY PRACTICES

Australian Government and majority of states and territories operate under the common assessment methodology for species listing	Seven of the nine Australian jurisdictions have signed the memorandum of understanding for the Common Assessment Method and are progressing relevant administrative and legislative amendments where required. All jurisdictions are actively participating in an interjurisdictional working group.	●
All 20 birds and 20 mammals with 2020 recovery targets in the Action plan have up-to-date conservation advices or recovery plans in place	Updated recovery plans or conservation advices are being prepared to ensure all birds and mammals with 2020 recovery targets in the Threatened Species Strategy Action plan have up-to-date plans or advices in place.	●
Based on the work-plan, up-to-date conservation advices or recovery plans are in place for all high-priority species and ecological communities	Updated recovery plans or conservation advices are being prepared for the high-priority species and ecological communities determined by the Department of the Environment and Energy.	●
All recovery teams follow best practice governance procedures	The Recovery Team Governance Best Practice Guidelines have been on the Department of the Environment and Energy website , and teams interested in national registration will submit their Terms of Reference in accordance with national governance procedures. The Department is working with recovery teams to increase participation in the process.	●

<p>All active recovery teams report annually on progress</p>	<p>The Recovery Team Annual Progress report has been published on the Department of the Environment and Energy website, and a new online version of the monitoring and reporting tool is being developed. It will be piloted in June 2018.</p>	
<p>All projects funded under the 20 Million Trees and Green Army Programs, that involve threatened species or ecological community recovery, are guided by the relevant conservation advice or recovery plans</p>	<p>All grant applications have included a section that requires proposals to demonstrate how the work connects with scientific research, and aligns with relevant plans such as Conservation Advices, Recovery Plans, Regional NRM Plans and Threat Abatement Plans.</p>	
<p>Identified high-priority species and ecological communities reviewed, and work plan for updating conservation advices and recovery plans is varied as required</p>	<p>Forward work plan has been established and is currently being delivered by the Department of the Environment and Energy.</p>	