

To: Minister for the Environment (For Decision)

DECISION TO AMEND THE EPBC ACT LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES FOR 10 SPECIES FROM TSSC73

Timing: 6 February 2019 (statutory deadline).

Recommendations:			
1. That you agree to amend the list of threatened species by making the statutory decisions in Attachment A , signing the legislative instrument at Attachment G and approving the explanatory statement at Attachment H .			
			Agreed / Not agreed
2. That you sign the letters to key stakeholders at Attachment I .			
			Signed / Not signed
3. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for twelve assessments as proposed in Attachment A .			
			Agreed / Not agreed
Minister:		Date:	
Comments:			
Clearing Officer: Sent: 28/09/18	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	s22	Director, Species Information and Policy Section	Ph: s22 Mob: s22

Key Points:

1. This brief provides threatened species listing assessments for ten species (comprising eight mammals and two plants) from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's September 2018 meeting. Your statutory decisions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for considering the Committee's advice and amending the list are provided in **Attachment A**. An extract of the Act setting out your obligations when amending the list is at **Attachment B**.

Summary of Listings

- The changes to the list of threatened species for the ten species involve: one species being declared extinct, one addition to the list, two retained in their current category, five removals from the list and one species being found ineligible for listing.

Species name	Location	Recommended decision
Mammal species		
<i>Bettongia gaimardi cuniculus</i> (Eastern Bettong (Tasmania))	Tas	Determine to be ineligible for listing
<i>Dasyercus cristicauda</i> (Crest-tailed Mulgara)	Qld, SA, WA, NT, NSW	Remove from the Vulnerable Category
<i>Melomys rubicola</i> (Bramble Cay Melomys)	Qld (Torres Strait)	Transfer from the Endangered Category to the Extinct Category
<i>Mesembriomys macrurus</i> (Golden-backed Tree-rat)	WA, NT	Remove from the Vulnerable Category to Not Listed
<i>Notamacropus eugenii eugenii</i> (Tammar wallaby (South Australia))	SA	Remove from the Extinct Category to Not Listed
<i>Pseudantechinus mimulus</i> (Carpentarian Antechinus)	Qld, NT	Remove from the Vulnerable Category to Not Listed
<i>Vombatus ursinus ursinus</i> (Common wombat (Bass Strait Is))	Tas	Remove from the Vulnerable Category to Not Listed
<i>Zyromys palatalis</i> (Carpentarian Rock-rat)	NT, Qld	Retain in the Endangered Category
Plant species		
<i>Bruguiera hainesii</i> (Haines Orange Mangrove)	Qld	List as Critically Endangered
<i>Oberonia attenuata</i> (Mossman Fairy Orchid)	Qld	Retain as Critically Endangered

- A summary of the recommendations and assessment information for each species is at **Attachment C** and maps of their distribution are at **Attachment D**.
- The Committee's assessments, recommendations and reasons are provided in draft Conservation or Listing Advices at **Attachment E**. The Committee's reasons regarding the need for a recovery plan for each of the species are in **Attachment F**.

Legislative Instrument

- Amendments to the threatened species list take effect the day after the legislative instrument (**Attachment G**) has been registered on the Federal Register of Legislation. The explanatory statement accompanying the legislative instrument is at **Attachment H**. Listing instruments are disallowable.

Background

- The EPBC Act maintains a list of threatened species that can only be amended by you, based on advice from the Committee. The process for amending the list is detailed in sections 178 – 194 (**Attachment B**).
- The Department consolidates threatened species listing assessment recommendations from the Committee following each of the Committee meetings, amounting to four briefs per year.

8. Your decisions and the approved Conservation and Listing Advices will be published on the Department's website within 10 days of your decisions. Nominators and relevant stakeholders will be notified via email of the outcome of your decisions. Letters to the Chair of the Committee and the relevant state/territory ministers, are at **Attachment I** for your signature.

Sensitivities and Handling

9. Suggested talking points on the decisions in this brief are at **Attachment L**, including two decisions which may raise public interest:
 - a. listing the Bramble Cay Melomys as Extinct, because its extinction was recent and has been linked to human-induced climate change leading to the inundation of its coral cay habitat. The *Senate Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis* may raise public awareness of the extinction of this species. The inquiry is due to report on 4 December 2018.
 - b. determining that the Eastern Bettong is ineligible for listing, because this species is one of twenty mammals prioritised under the *Threatened Species Strategy*. The species was recently listed as regionally conservation dependent in the ACT where it was reintroduced into a predator-free area at Mulligan's Flat in 2012.
10. A media release and social media material can be prepared, if required. The Threatened Species Commissioner will also be briefed about your decisions.

Consultation:

11. Consultation on the assessment of each individual species was undertaken with identified experts, relevant states and territories, interested groups and the public via the Department's website and targeted correspondence for a minimum of 30 business days. A summary of the comments on each species assessment along with the submissions received are at **Attachment J**. No issues for land managers were identified.
12. Consultation was undertaken across the Department regarding the proposed recommendations for the species, and the benefits to their survival by inclusion in the list of threatened species. A summary of this Departmental consultation is provided for your information in **Attachment K**.

Attachments

- A:** Statutory decisions
- B:** Extract of the EPBC Act providing obligations for amending the list of threatened species
- C:** Summary information for the species
- D:** Indicative distribution maps for the species
- E:** Committee's advice in draft Conservation Advices and Listing Advices
- F:** Committee's recovery plan recommendations
- G:** Legislative instrument
- H:** Explanatory statement
- I:** Letters to relevant stakeholders
- J:** Submissions received from targeted and public consultation
- K:** Department internal consultation outcomes on post listing opportunities for conservation
- L:** Talking points

PDR: MS18-001273

To: Minister for the Environment (For Decision)

DECISION TO AMEND THE EPBC ACT LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES FOR 10 SPECIES FROM TSSC73

Timing: 6 February 2019 (statutory deadline).



Recommendations:

1. That you agree to amend the list of threatened species by making the statutory decisions in **Attachment A**, signing the legislative instrument at **Attachment G** and approving the explanatory statement at **Attachment H**.

Agreed / Not agreed

2. That you sign the letters to key stakeholders at **Attachment I**.

Signed / Not signed

3. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for ^{at eleven} twelve assessments as proposed in **Attachment A**.

Agreed / Not agreed

Minister:

Date:

Comments:

mtr

15/2/19

Clearing Officer: Sent: 28/09/18	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	s22	Director, Species Information and Policy Section	Ph: s22 Mob: s22

Key Points:

1. This brief provides threatened species listing assessments for ten species (comprising eight mammals and two plants) from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's September 2018 meeting. Your statutory decisions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for considering the Committee's advice and amending the list are provided in **Attachment A**. An extract of the Act setting out your obligations when amending the list is at **Attachment B**.

Summary of Listings

2. The changes to the list of threatened species for the ten species involve: one species being declared extinct, one addition to the list, two retained in their current category, five removals from the list and one species being found ineligible for listing.

Species name	Location	Recommended decision
Mammal species		
<i>Bettongia gaimardi cuniculus</i> (Eastern Bettong (Tasmania))	Tas	Determine to be ineligible for listing
<i>Dasyercus cristicauda</i> (Crest-tailed Mulgara)	Qld, SA, WA, NT, NSW	Remove from the Vulnerable Category
<i>Melomys rubicola</i> (Bramble Cay Melomys)	Qld (Torres Strait)	Transfer from the Endangered Category to the Extinct Category
<i>Mesembriomys macrurus</i> (Golden-backed Tree-rat)	WA, NT	Remove from the Vulnerable Category to Not Listed
<i>Notamacropus eugenii eugenii</i> (Tamar wallaby (South Australia))	SA	Remove from the Extinct Category to Not Listed
<i>Pseudantechinus mimulus</i> (Carpentarian Antechinus)	Qld, NT	Remove from the Vulnerable Category to Not Listed
<i>Vombatus ursinus ursinus</i> (Common wombat (Bass Strait Is))	Tas	Remove from the Vulnerable Category to Not Listed
<i>Zyomys palatalis</i> (Carpentarian Rock-rat)	NT, Qld	Retain in the Endangered Category
Plant species		
<i>Bruguiera hainesii</i> (Haines Orange Mangrove)	Qld	List as Critically Endangered
<i>Oberonia attenuata</i> (Mossman Fairy Orchid)	Qld	Retain as Critically Endangered

3. A summary of the recommendations and assessment information for each species is at **Attachment C** and maps of their distribution are at **Attachment D**.
4. The Committee's assessments, recommendations and reasons are provided in draft Conservation or Listing Advices at **Attachment E**. The Committee's reasons regarding the need for a recovery plan for each of the species are in **Attachment F**.

Legislative Instrument

5. Amendments to the threatened species list take effect the day after the legislative instrument (**Attachment G**) has been registered on the Federal Register of Legislation. The explanatory statement accompanying the legislative instrument is at **Attachment H**. Listing instruments are disallowable.

Background

6. The EPBC Act maintains a list of threatened species that can only be amended by you, based on advice from the Committee. The process for amending the list is detailed in sections 178 – 194 (**Attachment B**).
7. The Department consolidates threatened species listing assessment recommendations from the Committee following each of the Committee meetings, amounting to four briefs per year.

8. Your decisions and the approved Conservation and Listing Advices will be published on the Department's website within 10 days of your decisions. Nominators and relevant stakeholders will be notified via email of the outcome of your decisions. Letters to the Chair of the Committee and the relevant state/territory ministers, are at **Attachment I** for your signature.

Sensitivities and Handling

9. Suggested talking points on the decisions in this brief are at **Attachment L**, including two decisions which may raise public interest:
- a. listing the Bramble Cay Melomys as Extinct, because its extinction was recent and has been linked to human-induced climate change leading to the inundation of its coral cay habitat. The *Senate Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis* may raise public awareness of the extinction of this species. The inquiry is due to report on 4 December 2018.
 - b. determining that the Eastern Bettong is ineligible for listing, because this species is one of twenty mammals prioritised under the *Threatened Species Strategy*. The species was recently listed as regionally conservation dependent in the ACT where it was reintroduced into a predator-free area at Mulligan's Flat in 2012.
10. A media release and social media material can be prepared, if required. The Threatened Species Commissioner will also be briefed about your decisions.

Consultation:

11. Consultation on the assessment of each individual species was undertaken with identified experts, relevant states and territories, interested groups and the public via the Department's website and targeted correspondence for a minimum of 30 business days. A summary of the comments on each species assessment along with the submissions received are at **Attachment J**. No issues for land managers were identified.
12. Consultation was undertaken across the Department regarding the proposed recommendations for the species, and the benefits to their survival by inclusion in the list of threatened species. A summary of this Departmental consultation is provided for your information in **Attachment K**.

Attachments

- A:** Statutory decisions
- B:** Extract of the EPBC Act providing obligations for amending the list of threatened species
- C:** Summary information for the species
- D:** Indicative distribution maps for the species
- E:** Committee's advice in draft Conservation Advices and Listing Advices
- F:** Committee's recovery plan recommendations
- G:** Legislative instrument
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- K:** Department internal consultation outcomes on post listing opportunities for conservation
- L:** Talking points

Statutory Decisions

Statutory Decisions for amending the list of threatened species

- At its September 2018 meeting, the Committee finalised its assessment of ten species: eight mammals and two plants. A summary of the recommendations and assessment information for the species is in [Attachment C](#) and maps of their distribution are at [Attachment D](#). Table 1 below provides a summary of the changes to the threatened species list for the ten listing decisions.

Table 1: Summary of changes to the list of threatened species for the ten listing decisions in this brief.

Current EPBC Status	Proposed category				Total
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Extinct	Not listed	
Critically Endangered	1 retained in current category				1
Endangered		1 retained in current category	1 change of category		2
Extinct				1 removal from list	1
Not Listed	1 addition			1 ineligible	2
Vulnerable				4 removal from list	4
Total	2	1	1	6	10

- In making a decision to amend the list of threatened species, you may only consider the species' eligibility for listing, or the effect listing is having or may have on a species' survival (s186(2) and (2B)). Social and economic factors are not a relevant consideration, but can be considered later when approving actions that may significantly impact a listed species.
- In making your decision to amend the list you must first consider the Committee's assessment advice regarding the eligibility for listing. The Committee's assessments, recommendations and reasons for each species are provided in the draft Conservation Advices and Listing Advices at [Attachment E](#).
- You are required to have regard to comments received from consultation (s194Q(6)). The Committee invited public comment via the Department's website for at least 30 business days and consulted stakeholders including experts, specialist groups and state and territory governments, on the proposed amendments to the list. A summary of the issues raised for each species along with the submissions received are at [Attachment J](#).
- You are required to approve a Conservation Advice for a listed species (s266B), which for the purposes of this decision are: *Bruguiera hainesii* (Haines Orange Mangrove), *Oberonia attenuata* (Mossman Fairy Orchid) and *Zygomys palatalis* (Carpentarian Rock-rat). The Committee has provided a Conservation Advice for each of the three species proposed for listing, to be retained in their current category, or transferred between listing categories for your approval at [Attachment E](#). The advices will become the approved Conservation Advices under the EPBC Act from the date the amendment to the threatened species list takes effect and will be published on the Department's website.
- In deciding not to include an item in the Subdivision A list, you are required to publish your decision (s194Q(8)). The Committee has provided a Listing Advice for each of the five species proposed to be removed from the list: *Notamacropus eugenii eugenii* (Tammar

wallaby (South Australia)), *Vombatus ursinus ursinus* (Common wombat (Bass Strait Is)), *Mesembriomys macrurus* (Golden-backed Tree-rat), *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest-tailed Mulgara), *Pseudantechinus mimulus* (Carpentarian Antechinus), and *Melomys rubicola* (Bramble Cay Melomys) which is proposed to be transferred to the Extinct category and *Bettongia gaimardi cuniculus* (Eastern Bettong (Tasmania)), which was found ineligible for listing, for your approval at **Attachment E**. These advices will be published on the Department's website.

7. To give effect to your decision to amend the list, you must sign the legislative instrument at **Attachment G**, which will take effect the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation. If you disagree with any of the recommended changes to the list, a revised instrument will be provided. An explanatory statement which accompanies that registration is at **Attachment H** for your approval.

Statutory decision for amending the list of threatened species:

- i. That you consider the Committee's recommendations at **Attachment E**, and the public and expert comments concerning the assessments (**Attachment J**), and agree to amend the list of threatened species under the EPBC Act by:
- a) **including** in the **Critically Endangered** category
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Bruguiera hainesii</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
- b) **transferring** in the list from the **Endangered** category to the **Extinct** category:
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Melomys rubicola</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
- c) **deleting** in the **Extinct** category
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Notamacropus eugenii eugenii</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
- d) **deleting** from the **Vulnerable** category
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Dasyercus cristicauda</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
| <i>Mesembriomys macrurus</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
| <i>Pseudantechinus mimulus</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
| <i>Vombatus ursinus ursinus</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
- e) **retaining** in the list in the **Critically Endangered** category:
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Oberonia attenuata</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
- f) **retaining** in the list in the **Endangered** category:
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Zyzomys palatalis</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
- g) determining **ineligible** against the criteria
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Bettongia gaimardi cuniculus</i> | Agreed / Not agreed |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
- ii. That you sign the legislative instrument at **Attachment G** to amend the list of threatened species under the EPBC Act and approve the explanatory statement at **Attachment H**.

Signed and approved / Not Signed and approved

- iii. That you approve the Conservation Advices at **Attachment E** and agree that they will become the approved Conservation Advices from the date the amendment of the threatened species list takes effect.

Approved / Not approved

- iv. That you approve the Listing Advices at **Attachment E** for the species being removed from the list or found to be ineligible for listing.

Approved / Not approved

Statutory Decisions regarding the need for a recovery plan

8. Within 90 days of listing, you are required to decide whether to have a recovery plan for a listed species. The Committee's advice and its reasoning for the species proposed for listing are at **Attachment F**. When a species is transferred within the list a subsequent recovery plan decision is required.
9. Species that are removed from the list or listed in the Extinct category are not eligible to have a recovery plan, so a decision is not required for these species.

Statutory Decision regarding the need for a recovery plan:

- i. That you agree not to have a recovery plan for *Oberonia attenuata* and *Bruguiera hainesii*

Agreed / Not agreed

- ii. Approve the recovery plan decision reasons at **Attachment F** which, as required by the EPBC Act, will be published on the Department's website following your decision.

Approved / Not approved

Statutory decision regarding the process for making a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a recovery plan

10. One species was included in the list of threatened species prior to 2007, when the EPBC Act was amended to remove the requirement for all listed species to have a recovery plan. As part of the Committee's reassessment of this species, consideration was given to whether a recovery plan was still required for this species, or if an approved Conservation Advice would provide sufficient guidance to halt the decline and promote recovery.
11. The Committee have recommended that a recovery plan is not required for *Zyzomys palatalis*, which currently has a recovery plan. The EPBC Act details a multi-step process for making a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a recovery plan, which can only be done by you. The initial step is to seek your agreement to undertake the process based on advice from the Committee; consultation is then undertaken with the public, interested parties and relevant states/territories; further advice is then sought from the Committee prior to making a recommendation to you to statutorily reverse the decision.

Statutory Decision for the process for reversing a recovery plan decision

- i. That you consider the Committee recommendation not to have a recovery plan for *Zygomys palatalis* and agree to the Department commencing the process, as prescribed by the EPBC Act, to reverse the decision.

Agreed / Not agreed

Statutory decisions for extending the completion timeframe for assessments

- 12. The Committee determined that it cannot meet the assessment completion timeframe for eleven species, *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion), *Philothea sporadica* (Kogan Waxflower), *Petrogale concinna concinna* (Nabarlek (Victoria River District)), *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider), *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse), *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum*, *Petaurus australis* Wet Tropics subspecies (Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics)), *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (Spotted-tail Quoll (south-east mainland)), *Asterolasia asteriscophora* subsp *albiflora* (White Star Bush), *Potorous longipes* (Long-footed Potoroo) and *Prasophyllum litorale* (Coastal Leek Orchid). Further time is required to work with the relevant stakeholders to resolve technical points relating to the assessments.
- 13. The Committee requests an extension of the assessment completion time for the Australian Sea Lion, Kogan Waxflower and Nabarlek (Victoria River District) from 30 September 2018 until 30 March 2019 as provided for by s.194P(2) of the EPBC Act. The Department supports the Committee's proposal to extend this timeframe.
- 14. The Committee requests an extension of the assessment completion time for the Perth Slider, Northern Hopping-mouse, *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum*, Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics), Spotted-tail Quoll (south-east mainland) and the White Star Bush from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019 as provided for by s194P(2) of the EPBC Act. The Department supports the Committee's proposal to extend this timeframe.
- 15. Section 194P of the EPBC Act allows the Committee to request that you extend an assessment completion timeframe. You may extend the assessment timeframe, provided the total length of the assessment is not more than 5 years under s194P(3), (relevant sections of the EPBC Act are at **Attachment B**). The extensions requested in this brief do not exceed the 5 year timeframe. If you agree to the extensions, reasons for the extensions will be published on the Department's website as per standard practice under (s194P(5)).

Recommendations: Extending the completion timeframe for assessments

- i. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion), from 30 September 2018 until 30 March 2019.

Agreed / Not agreed

- ii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Philothea sporadica* (Kogan Waxflower) from 30 September 2018 until 30 March 2019.

Agreed / Not agreed

iii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Petrogale concinna concinna* (Nabarlek (Victoria River District)) from 30 September 2018 until 30 March 2019.

Agreed / Not agreed

iv. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider) from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019.

Agreed / Not agreed

v. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse) from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019

Agreed / Not agreed

vi. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019

Agreed / Not agreed

vii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Petaurus australis Wet Tropics subspecies* (Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics)) from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019

Agreed / Not agreed

viii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (Spotted-tail Quoll (south-east mainland)) from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019

Agreed / Not agreed

ix. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Asterolasia asteriscophora* subsp *albiflora* (White Star Bush) from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019

Agreed / Not agreed

x. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Potorous longipes* (Long-footed Potoroo) from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019

Agreed / Not agreed

xi. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Prasophyllum litorale* (Coastal Leek Orchid) from 30 September 2018 until 30 September 2019

Agreed / Not agreed

To: Minister for the Environment (For Decision)

**DECISION TO AMEND THE EPBC ACT LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES
FOR 34 SPECIES FROM TSSC74**

Timing: 9 August 2019 (statutory deadline)

Recommendations:

1. That you agree to amend the list of threatened species by making the statutory decisions in **Attachment A**, signing the legislative instrument at **Attachment G** and approving the explanatory statement at **Attachment H**.

Agreed / Not agreed

2. That you sign the letters to key stakeholders at **Attachment I**.

Signed / Not signed

3. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for nine assessments as proposed in **Attachment A**.

Agreed / Not agreed

Minister:

Date:

Comments:

Clearing Officer: Sent: 29 Mar 19	Geoff Richardson	Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	s22	Director, Species Information and Policy Section	Ph: s22 Mob: s22

Key Points:

1. This brief provides threatened species listing assessments for 34 species (one mammal, one frog, two reptiles, two fish, two invertebrates and 26 plants) from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's November 2018 meeting. Your statutory decisions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for considering the Committee's advice and amending the list are provided in **Attachment A**. An extract of the Act setting out your obligations when amending the list is at **Attachment B**.

Summary of Listings

- The changes to the list of threatened species for the 34 species involve: twenty-five additions to the list, four transfers within the list and five removals from the list.
- Thirty of the species have been assessed by jurisdictions using the Common Assessment Method. This reform, which commenced in 2015, aligns assessment processes across Australia enabling efficient, consistent listing outcomes and improved clarity for the regulated community. For these 30 species, your listing decisions would align the EPBC Act list of threatened species with the equivalent lists under state and territory laws.
- The assessment of the Nabarlek was initiated by the Commonwealth on the recommendation of the Committee in 2014, and has been undertaken in consultation with the Northern Territory.
- The Commonwealth also led the assessments for three species for taxonomic reasons – *Stylidium coroniforme* (Wongan Hills triggerplant), *Aprasia rostrata rostrata* (Monte Bello Worm-lizard), and *Hypsela sessiliflora*. These species have already been deleted from the relevant state lists. For the purposes of this brief they have been included with Common Assessment Method species as these assessments are aligning the EPBC Act list with state lists.

Species name	Location	Recommended decision
Mammals		
<i>Petrogale concinna concinna</i> (Nabarlek (Victoria River))	NT	List as Critically Endangered
Frogs		
<i>Spicospina flammocaerulea</i> (Sunset Frog)	WA	Transfer to the Vulnerable category from Endangered category
Reptiles		
<i>Aprasia rostrata rostrata</i> (Monte Bello Worm-lizard), <i>Ctenotus angusticeps</i> (Northwestern Coastal Ctenotus)	WA	Delete from the Vulnerable category
Fish		
<i>Galaxias truttaceus</i> (Western Australian population)	WA	Transfer to the Endangered category from Critically Endangered category
<i>Nannoperca pygmaea</i> (Little Pygmy Perch)	WA	List as Endangered
Invertebrates		
<i>Hesperocolletes douglasi</i> (Douglas' Broad-headed Bee)	WA	List as Critically Endangered
<i>Trioza barrettiae</i> (Banksia Brownii Plant-louse)	WA	List as Endangered
Plants		
<i>Fontainea oraria</i> ,	NSW	Transfer to the Endangered category from Critically Endangered category
<i>Gentiana bredboensis</i>	NSW	Transfer to the Vulnerable category from Critically Endangered category
<i>Homoranthus bebo</i> , <i>Phebalium speciosum</i>	NSW	List as Critically Endangered
<i>Pimelea axiflora</i> subsp. <i>pubescens</i>	NSW	List as Endangered
<i>Hypsela sessiliflora</i>	NSW	Delete from Extinct category
<i>Philotheca ericifolia</i>	NSW	Delete from the Vulnerable category
<i>Clauseana excavata</i>	NT	List as Critically Endangered
<i>Androcalva adenothealia</i> , <i>Eremophila glabra</i> subsp. Scaddan (C. Turley s.n. 10/11/2005), <i>Hibbertia</i> sp. Too brunup (J.R.Wheeler 2504), <i>Lasiopetalum</i> sp. Mount Caroline (S.D. Hopper SDH 6381), <i>Stylidium amabile</i>	WA	List as Critically Endangered

<i>Acacia woodmaniorum</i> (Woodman's Wattle), <i>Androcalva perlaria</i> (Pearl-I ke Androcalva), <i>Bossiaea</i> sp. Frankland (E.M. Sandiford EMS 896), <i>Caladenia graniticola</i> (Pingaring Spider-orchid), <i>Grevillea acropogon</i> , <i>Hypocalymma angustifolium</i> subsp. Hutt River (S.Patrick 2982), <i>Hypocalymma</i> sp. Cascade (R. Bruhn 20896), <i>Melaleuca</i> sp. Wanneroo (G.J. Keighery 16705), <i>Stylidium asymmetricum</i> (Asymmetric Triggerplant), <i>Stylidium coroniforme</i> subsp. <i>amblyphyllum</i> , <i>Stylidium coroniforme</i> subsp. <i>coroniforme</i> (Wongan Hills triggerplant)	WA	List as Endangered
<i>Myriocephalus nudus</i>	WA	List as Extinct
<i>Stylidium coroniforme</i> (Wongan Hills triggerplant)	WA	Delete from Endangered category

6. A summary of the recommendations and assessment information for each species is at **Attachment C** and maps of their distribution are at **Attachment D**.
7. The Committee's assessments, recommendations and reasons are provided in draft Conservation or Listing Advices at **Attachment E**. The Committee's reasons regarding the need for a recovery plan for each of the newly-listed species are in **Attachment F**.

Legislative Instrument

8. Amendments to the threatened species list take effect the day after the legislative instrument (**Attachment G**) has been registered on the Federal Register of Legislation. The explanatory statement accompanying the legislative instrument is at **Attachment H**. Listing instruments are disallowable.

Sensitivities and Handling

9. Your decisions and the approved Conservation and Listing Advices will be published on the Department's website within 10 days of your decisions. Relevant stakeholders will be notified via email of the outcome of your decisions. Letters to the Chair of the Committee and the relevant state and territory ministers, are at **Attachment I** for your signature.
10. Suggested talking points on the decisions in this brief are at **Attachment L**.
11. A media release and social media material can be prepared, if required. The Threatened Species Commissioner will also be briefed about your decisions.

Consultation:

12. Consultation on the assessment of each individual species was undertaken with identified experts, relevant states and territories, interested groups and the public via the Department's website and targeted correspondence for a minimum of 30 business days. A summary of the comments on each species assessment along with the submissions received are at **Attachment J**. No issues for land managers were identified.
13. Consultation was undertaken across the Department regarding the proposed recommendations for the species, and the benefits to their survival by inclusion in the list of threatened species. A summary of this Departmental consultation is provided for your information in **Attachment K**.

Background

14. The EPBC Act maintains a list of threatened species that can only be amended by you, based on advice from the Committee. The process for amending the list is detailed in sections 178 – 194 (**Attachment B**).

15. The Department consolidates threatened species listing assessment recommendations from the Committee following each of the Committee meetings, amounting to four briefs per year.

Attachments

- A:** Statutory decisions
- B:** Extract of the EPBC Act providing obligations for amending the list of threatened species
- C:** Summary information for the species
- D:** Indicative distribution maps for the species
- E:** Committee's advice in draft Conservation Advices and Listing Advices
- F:** Committee's recovery plan recommendations
- G:** Legislative instrument
- H:** Explanatory statement
- I:** Letters to relevant stakeholders
- J:** Submissions received from targeted and public consultation
- K:** Department internal consultation outcomes on post listing opportunities for conservation
- L:** Talking points

Statutory Decisions

Statutory Decisions for amending the list of threatened species

1. At its November 2018 meeting, the Committee finalised assessments of 34 species: one mammal, one frog, two reptiles, two fish, two invertebrates and 26 plants. A summary of the recommendations and assessment information for the species is in **Attachment C** and maps of their distribution are at **Attachment D**. Table 1 below provides a summary of the changes to the threatened species list for the 34 listing decisions.
2. There are 25 additions to the list, four transfers within the list and five removals from the list.
3. All of the species are endemic to a single state or territory - 25 in Western Australia, seven in New South Wales and two in the Northern Territory.

Table 1: Summary of changes to the list of threatened species for the 34 listing decisions in this brief.

Current status	Proposed status					
	Extinct	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Not listed	Total
Extinct					1	1
Critically Endangered			1			1
Endangered		1		1	1	3
Vulnerable		1			3	4
Not listed	1	10	14			25
Total	1	12	15	1	5	34

4. The assessments comprise:
 - a. Thirty assessments which were initiated by the states and territories providing their assessments to the Committee for consideration under the EPBC Act. These assessments comply with the requirements of the intergovernmental agreement on the Common Assessment Method, a 2015 reform which enables sharing of assessments between all relevant jurisdictions to achieve consistent listing outcomes.
 - b. Three assessments to delist for taxonomic reasons – *Stylidium coroniforme* (Wongan Hills triggerplant), *Aprasia rostrata rostrata* (Monte Bello Worm-lizard) and *Hypsela sessiliflora*. These species have already been deleted from the relevant state lists. For the purposes of this brief, they have been included with Common Assessment Method species as these assessments are aligning the EPBC Act list with state lists.
 - c. One assessment of the Nabarlek which was initiated by the Commonwealth on the recommendation of the Committee prior to the commencement of the Common Assessment Method. This assessment has been undertaken in consultation with the Northern Territory.
 - d. In **Attachments C and K**, the Commonwealth assessment of the Nabarlek and the thirty-three Common Assessment Method species are presented separately.
5. In making a decision to amend the list of threatened species, you may only consider the species' eligibility for listing, or the effect listing is having or may have on a species' survival (s186(2) and (2B)). Social and economic factors are not a relevant consideration, but can be considered later when approving actions that may significantly impact a listed species.

6. In making your decision to amend the list you must first consider the Committee's assessment advice regarding the eligibility for listing. The Committee's assessments, recommendations and reasons for each species are provided in the draft Conservation Advices and Listing Advices at **Attachment E**.
7. You are required to have regard to comments received from consultation (s194Q(6)). The Committee invited public comment via the Department's website for at least 30 business days and consulted stakeholders including experts, specialist groups and state and territory governments, on the proposed amendments to the list. A summary of the issues raised for each species along with the submissions received are at **Attachment J**.
8. You are required to approve a Conservation Advice for a listed species (s266B). The Committee has provided a Conservation Advice for each of the species proposed for listing, to be retained in their current category, or transferred between listing categories for your approval at **Attachment E**. The advices will become the approved Conservation Advices under the EPBC Act from the date the amendment to the threatened species list takes effect and will be published on the Department's website.
9. In deciding not to include an item in the Subdivision A list, you are required to publish your decision (s194Q(8)). The Committee has provided a Listing Advice for each of the five species proposed to be removed from the list: *Aprasia rostrata rostrata*, *Ctenotus angusticeps*, *Hypsela sessiliflora*, *Philothea ericifolia* and *Stylidium coroniforme*. A listing advice is also provided for *Myriocephalus nudus*, which was found to be extinct, for your approval at **Attachment E**. These advices will be published on the Department's website.
10. To give effect to your decision to amend the list, you must sign the legislative instrument at **Attachment G**, which will take effect the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation. If you disagree with any of the recommended changes to the list, a revised instrument will be provided. An explanatory statement which accompanies that registration is at **Attachment H** for your approval.

Statutory decision for amending the list of threatened species:

- i. That you consider the Committee's recommendations at **Attachment E**, and the public and expert comments concerning the assessments (**Attachment J**), and agree to amend the list of threatened species under the EPBC Act by:

a) including in the Critically Endangered category

<i>Androcalva adenothalia</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Clausena excavata</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Eremophila glabra</i> subsp. Scaddan (C. Turley s.n. 10/11/2005)	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Hesperocolletes douglasi</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Hibbertia</i> sp. Toolbrunup (J.R.Wheeler 2504)	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Homoranthus bebo</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Lasiopetalum</i> sp. Mount Caroline (S.D. Hopper SDH 6381)	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Phebalium speciosum</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Petrogale concinna concinna</i>	Agreed / Not agreed

<i>Stylidium amabile</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
b) including in the list in the Endangered category	
<i>Acacia woodmaniorum</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Androcalva perlaria</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Bossiaea</i> sp. Frankland (E.M. Sandiford EMS 896)	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Caladenia graniticola</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Grevillea acropogon</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Hypocalymma angustifolium</i> subsp. Hutt River (S.Patrick 2982)	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Hypocalymma</i> sp. Cascade (R. Bruhn 20896)	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Melaleuca</i> sp. Wanneroo (G.J. Keighery 16705)	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Nannoperca pygmaea</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Pimelea axiflora</i> subsp. <i>pubescens</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Stylidium asymmetricum</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Stylidium coroniforme</i> subsp. <i>amblyphyllum</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Stylidium coroniforme</i> subsp. <i>coroniforme</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
<i>Trioza barrettae</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
c) including in the list in the Extinct category	
<i>Myriocephalus nudus</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
d) transferring in the list from the Critically Endangered category to the Endangered category	
<i>Galaxias truttaceus</i> (Western Australian population)	Agreed / Not agreed
e) transferring in the list from the Endangered category to the Critically Endangered category	
<i>Fontainea oraria</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
f) transferring in the list from the Vulnerable category to the Critically Endangered category	
<i>Gentiana bredboensis</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
g) transferring in the list from the Endangered category to the Vulnerable category	
<i>Spicospina flammocaerulea</i>	Agreed / Not agreed
h) deleting from the Extinct category	
<i>Hypsela sessiliflora</i>	Agreed / Not agreed

i) deleting from the Endangered category

Stylidium coroniforme

Agreed / Not agreed

j) deleting from the Vulnerable category

Aprasia rostrata rostrata

Agreed / Not agreed

Ctenotus angusticeps

Agreed / Not agreed

Philotheca ericifolia

Agreed / Not agreed

- ii. That you sign the legislative instrument at **Attachment G** to amend the list of threatened species under the EPBC Act and approve the explanatory statement at **Attachment H**.

Signed and approved / Not Signed and approved

- iii. That you approve the Conservation Advices at **Attachment E** and agree that they will become the approved Conservation Advices from the date the amendment of the threatened species list takes effect.

Approved / Not approved

- iv. That you approve the Listing Advices at **Attachment E** for the species being removed from the list or found to be Extinct.

Approved / Not approved

Statutory Decisions regarding the need for a recovery plan

11. Within 90 days of listing, you are required to decide whether to have a recovery plan for a listed species. The Committee's advice and its reasoning for the species proposed for listing are at **Attachment F**. When a species is transferred within the list, a subsequent recovery plan decision is required.
12. Species that are removed from the list or listed in the Extinct category are not eligible to have a recovery plan, so a decision is not required for those species.
13. The Committee have recommended that a recovery plan is required for one newly-listed species, is not required for 23 of the newly-listed species and continues to not be required for three transferred species.

Statutory Decision regarding the need for a recovery plan:

- i. That you agree to have a recovery plan for *Melaleuca* sp. Wanneroo (G.J. Keighery 16705).

Agreed / Not agreed

- ii. That you agree not to have a recovery plan for *Acacia woodmaniorum*, *Androcalva adenothalia*, *Androcalva perlaria*, *Bossiaea* sp. Frankland (E.M. Sandiford EMS 896), *Caladenia graniticola*, *Clausena excavata*, *Eremophila glabra* subsp. Scaddan (C. Turley s.n. 10/11/2005), *Grevillea acropogon*, *Hesperocolletes douglasi*, *Hibbertia* sp. Toolbrunup (J.R.Wheeler 2504), *Homoranthus bebo*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium* subsp. Hutt River (S.Patrick 2982), *Hypocalymma* sp. Cascade (R. Bruhn 20896), *Lasiopetalum* sp. Mount Caroline (S.D. Hopper SDH 6381), *Nannoperca pygmaea*, *Petrogale concinna concinna*, *Phebalium speciosum*, *Pimelea axiflora* subsp. *pubescens*, *Stylidium amabile*,

Stylidium asymmetricum, *Stylidium coroniforme* subsp. *amblyphyllum*, *Stylidium coroniforme* subsp. *coroniforme* and *Trioza barrettae*.

Agreed / Not agreed

- iii. That you agree to continue not to have a recovery plan for *Galaxias truttaceus* (Western Australian population), *Gentiana bredboensis* and *Spicospina flammocaerulea*.

Agreed / Not agreed

- iv. That you approve the recovery plan decision reasons at **Attachment F** which, as required by the EPBC Act, will be published on the Department's website following your decision.

Approved / Not approved

Statutory decision regarding the process for making a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a recovery plan

14. One species, *Fontainea oraria*, was included in the list of threatened species prior to 2007, when the EPBC Act was amended to remove the requirement for all listed species to have a recovery plan. As part of the Committee's reassessment of this species, consideration was given to whether a recovery plan was still required, or if an approved Conservation Advice would provide sufficient guidance to halt the decline and promote recovery.
15. The Committee have recommended that a recovery plan is not required for *Fontainea oraria*, which currently has a recovery plan. The EPBC Act details a multi-step process for making a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a recovery plan, which can only be done by you. The initial step is to seek your agreement to undertake the process based on advice from the Committee; consultation is then undertaken with the public, interested parties and relevant states/territories; further advice is then sought from the Committee prior to making a recommendation to you to statutorily reverse the decision.

Statutory Decision for the process for making a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a recovery plan

- i. That you consider the Committee recommendation not to have a recovery plan for *Fontainea oraria*, and agree to the Department commencing the process, as prescribed by the EPBC Act, to make a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a recovery plan.

Agreed / Not agreed

Statutory decisions for extending the completion timeframe for assessments

16. The Committee determined that it cannot meet the assessment completion timeframe for nine species currently included in the Finalised Priority Assessment List. Additional time is required to work with the relevant stakeholders to resolve technical points relating to the assessments. The Department supports the Committee's request to extend these timeframes.
17. Section 194P of the EPBC Act allows the Committee to request that you extend an assessment completion timeframe. You may extend the assessment timeframe, provided the total length of the assessment is not more than 5 years under s194P(3), (relevant sections of the EPBC Act are at **Attachment B**). The extensions requested in this brief do not exceed the

5 year timeframe. If you agree to the extensions, reasons for the extensions will be published on the Department's website as per standard practice under (s194P(5)).

Recommendations: Extending the completion timeframe for assessments

- i. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Miniopterus orianae bassanii* (Southern Bent-wing Bat) from 30 March 2019 until 30 September 2019.
Agreed / Not agreed
- ii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion) from 30 March 2019 until 30 September 2019.
Agreed / Not agreed
- iii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Petrogale lateralis West Kimberley Race* (Black-footed Rock-wallaby) from 30 March 2019 until 30 September 2019.
Agreed / Not agreed
- iv. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Pseudomys fumeus* (Smoky Mouse) from 30 March 2019 until 30 September 2019.
Agreed / Not agreed
- v. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Pseudomys oralis* (Hastings River Mouse) from 30 March 2019 until 30 September 2019
Agreed / Not agreed
- vi. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis* (Northern Brushtail Possum) from 30 March 2019 until 30 March 2020
Agreed / Not agreed
- vii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Potorous longipes* (Long-footed Potoroo) from 30 March 2019 until 30 March 2020
Agreed / Not agreed
- viii. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Antrophylum austroqueenslandicum* from 30 March 2019 until 30 September 2020
Agreed / Not agreed
- ix. Agree to extend the Committee's timeframe for the assessment of *Uperoleia mahonyi* (Mahony's Toadlet) from 30 September 2019 until 30 September 2020
Agreed / Not agreed

THREATENED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Meeting 73: 4 – 6 September 2018, Canberra

MINUTES

Committee attendance:

Professor Helene Marsh, Dr Hamish Campbell, Professor Kingsley Dixon, Ms Louise Gilfedder, Dr David Kendal, Dr Sarah Legge, Dr Nicola Mitchell, Professor Colin Simpfendorfer

1. OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome to members and Chair's opening remarks

The Chair:

- **acknowledged** the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which members were meeting
- **welcomed** members to the meeting and **welcomed** Professor Keith and Professor Bunn in their capacities as expert advisors.
- **thanked** the Department for preparation of materials for the meeting
- **noted** the continued vacancies on the Committee and the imminent completion of terms for a further three members

1.2 Declaration of Interests (under EPBC Reg. 15.1)

- The Committee noted members' declarations of interests (which may include direct or indirect pecuniary interests) relevant to the Committee's considerations
- Professor Marsh — National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Tropical Water Quality Hub funding recipient and member of Scientific Advisory Committee. Sirenian IUCN specialist group co-chair. Reviewer of *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012*. Funding received from the Department for cetacean and dugong research. Member of Gladstone Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel. Member of the Independent Scientific Panel for Reef 2050. Leading the Reef Integrated Monitoring megafauna team. Natural heritage expert on Australia's delegation to the World Heritage Committee.
- Dr Campbell — funding recipient for a project on habitat selection by *Numerius madagascariensis* (Eastern Curlew). Undertaking a project with Rio Tinto. Engaged in consultancy with Vista Gold on *Erythrura gouldiae* (Gouldian Finch).
- Professor Dixon — research grants received from Alcoa, BHP Billiton Iron Ore, BMP Oceania, P/L, Mitsui & Co (Australia), Fortescue Metals Group, Karara, Sinosteel Metals Corporation, Polaris, Cliffs, Grange resources, Iuka Resources, Rocla Quarry Products, Shark Bay Resources, Urban Resources, Jandakot Airport Holdings, Mineral Resources Pty Ltd, Cliffs Pty Ltd; Nifty Copper — Birla, Wavelength Nominees. Urban Resources has purchased a covenant from Professor Dixon for some property for the protection of Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat. Conducting research for Perth to Darwin Highway Project; Member of a Project Control Group for Newmont Mining — Boddington Gold project. Member of the WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee. Federal committee member of the Alligator Rivers Research and Technical Committee (ARRTC). Commissioner of Lotteries Commission of Western Australia (Lotterywest).
- Ms Gilfedder — Member of the Scientific Advisory Council established under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act*. Member of the Ecological Society of Australia Policy Working Group.
- Dr Kendal — NESP Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub.

- Dr Legge — *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012* contributor. BirdLife Australia Threatened Species Committee member. NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub funding recipient and leader. Paid by Australian National University, with Professor Lindenmayer as a supervisor
- Dr Mitchell — NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub funding recipient and project leader. Vice-president of the Australian Society of Herpetologists (ASH). Member of the WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee. BHP is funding a PhD student's sea turtle research in the Ningaloo World Heritage Area.

The Committee:

- **noted** the declarations made by members.

1.3 Notification of members' and expert advisors' relevant professional experiences since the previous meeting

- Professor Bunn – has co-authored a paper on the diet of crocodiles in Kakadu national park, finding that feral pigs make up a large part of their diet (doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0200983)
- Dr Campbell – completed a collaboration with economists to examine what drives the public to donate to conservation campaigns in Australia, which has been published (doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0191888).
- Professor Dixon – finalising the second edition of the *International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration*, to be launched at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties in November with new material about cultural landscapes.
- Ms Gilfedder – participated in first meeting of the Tasmanian Scientific Advisory Committee chaired by Dr Catherine Byrne, an expert in invertebrate fauna and taxonomy at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.
- Professor Keith – progressing a Global Ecosystem Typology for IUCN. Attended Polar Science symposium and participated in discussion about Antarctic and Arctic ecosystem risk assessments. Attended IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Steering Committee, which discussed infrastructure to assist with uptake of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Criteria and building a global overview of threatened ecosystems. In discussion with Neil Cox, Manager of the IUCN Biodiversity Assessment Unit about the assessment of Australian Proteaceae.
- Dr Kendal – lectured at the Institute of Wildlife Research in Berlin. Noted one of his students has had a paper in press on the social acceptability of culling koalas.
- Dr Legge – recently visited Lord Howe Island. Collaborating with John Woinarski and Chris Dickman on a book about feral cats which will be published soon. Co-authored an analysis of threats to Australian species (doi.org/10.1071/PC18024).
- Professor Marsh – attended the Indigenous Advisory Committee. Held out of session discussions with Professor Barbara Evans, Chair of the Victoria Scientific Advisory Committee, regarding the Leadbeater's Possum assessment. Attended the conservation dependent workshop. Attended the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Bahrain where threatened species were raised in context of natural heritage nominations. Contributed to the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program which is committed to integrating monitoring programs across the Great Barrier Reef.
- Dr Mitchell – gave a plenary at the Society for Conservation Biology Oceania Section conference in Wellington New Zealand in July. Major focus of the conference was the control of introduced predators associated with the initiative 'predator-free New Zealand'. The Reptile Action Plan manuscript has been drafted and will be published by CSIRO Press in 2019. Commenced a research project on the Numbat.
- Professor Simpfendorfer – attended the 5th International Marine Conservation Congress in Sarawak, Malaysia, in June on marine conservation science and policy

The Committee:

- **noted** the professional experiences and events of interest since the previous meeting reported by the members and expert advisors

1.4 Assistant Secretary and Directors' updates

Protected Species and Communities Branch

- Members noted that the Hon Melissa Price MP had been appointed as the Minister for the Environment and the Hon Angus Taylor MP had been appointed as Minister for Energy. No machinery of government changes to the Department were expected, with the Department reporting to the two ministers.
- The Committee's advice on listing of two ecological communities and one species, previously provided to the former Minister for the Environment, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, would be provided to Minister Price for consideration.
- Members noted that five staff members had left the Protected Species and Communities Branch since the June meeting. The branch was operating within its 2018/19 budget, with a small reduction in the budget forecast for 2019/20.
- Members noted the *Review of interactions between the EPBC Act and the agriculture sector* (the Craik Review) was reaching completion, with the final report due in September. The Department expects that the review will include recommendations about the nomination and consultation process for threatened species and ecological communities, and outreach and communications about the EPBC Act to the agriculture sector.
- Members noted that the Department was finalising a submission to the Senate inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis, describing the national policy and legislation, funding programs, monitoring, research and reporting.
- Members noted that the former Minister had amended the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* following listing of the Scalloped Hammerhead Shark. A disallowance motion on that amendment would be debated on 10 September 2018.
- The branch had provided technical advice to the assessment of proposals for funding under the Regional Landcare Partnership, with many high-quality projects on threatened species and ecological communities received. Funding had been announced for the first tranche of approved projects. Projects for the subsequent years of the program were being assessed.
- Members noted that there had been progress on appointment of members, with Minister Price agreeing to the approach to be taken. The Department thanked to Prof Keith and Prof Bunn for their continued contributions.

Species Policy and Information Section

- Members noted that s22 had left the Department and formally acknowledged and thanked him for his efforts as Secretariat.
- Minister Price considered the 2018 Proposed Priority Assessment List and agreed with the Committee's proposed priorities. The 2018 Finalised Priority Assessment List comprising 74 species and two ecological communities was expected to be made public shortly after the meeting. Consultation was already underway for 33 of the species which had assessments provided by the states and territories through the Common Assessment Method, and endorsed by the Committee prior to the 2018 PPAL process.
- Further work would be undertaken to revise the protocol between the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) and the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. The IAC members were considering the protocol and were expected to provide it for review to the TSSC. The Secretariat expects the revised protocol to have more specific points of collaboration identified. Professor Marsh had invited the IAC chair to a future meeting of the TSSC to sign the updated protocol once both committees agree on its content.
- Listing assessments on ten species of frogs considered at TSSC72 (June 2018) had been finalised out of session, thanks to Dr Mitchell, and were being prepared for consideration by the Minister.

- The timeframe for the final advice on species due to the Minister by 30 September was tight, and members were asked to provide written comments to the Secretariat to enable revisions to be completed while the meeting was occurring.

Ecological Communities Section

- Members noted that the Conservation Advice for the Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community had been provided to Minister Price on 31 July 2018, with a decision due by 5 December 2018.
- Minister Price met with the Western Australian Division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) about their concerns regarding the listing of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community and the Tuart ecological community listing.
- Members were supplied with copies of a new information guide *Posidonia australis Seagrass Meadows of the Manning-Hawkesbury Ecoregion: A Nationally Significant Ecological Community* which had also been published on the [Department's website](#). The guide, which was prepared with the assistance of a Departmental graduate placed in the Ecological Communities Section, aimed to raise awareness and provide information on the EPBC Act referral, assessment and approval process. The guide focussed on promoting environmentally friendly moorings.
- The Ecological Communities Section is working with Associate Professor Philip Gibbons and students from the Australian National University to develop a nomination for Coastal Headland *Themeda* grasslands to be submitted in 2019.
- A collaboration was underway with CSIRO to hold a workshop on defining two ecological communities under assessment – Ridged plains mallee woodland and Mallee bird community of the Murray Darling Depression bioregion – and development of a broader mallee state and transition model that will inform the Conservation Advices for these ecological communities.
- Workshops were being planned on the Karst rising springs of south-east South Australia and River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of New South Wales ecological community assessments.

Terrestrial Threatened Species Section

- Planning had progressed on the implementation of the thematic review of recovery plan sunseting dates, which would be discussed at [Item 6.7](#) and [Item 10.2](#).
- The Terrestrial Threatened Species Section was collaborating with the Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner on Year 3 reporting under the Threatened Species Strategy for the improving recovery practices, 20 birds by 2020 and 20 mammals by 2020 targets.
- Several priority recovery plans were nearing completion and would be provided for the Committee's consideration at TSSC74 (Nov 2018).

Marine and Freshwater Species Section

- The 2017 Southern Bluefin Tuna stock assessment was complete and published by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) (<https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/latest-stock-assessment>). The 2017 assessment suggested that the stock remains at a low state, estimated to be 13% of the initial spawning stock biomass, and below the level to produce maximum sustainable yield. There has been improvement since previous stock assessments which indicated the stock was at 5.5% of original biomass in 2011 and 9% in 2014. The target for 2035 is 20%. The CCSBT meeting in October 2018 would consider raising the target to 30-35%.
- Members discussed the conservation trajectory of other Conservation Dependent species. Prof Simpfendorfer advised that School Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) was also likely to be recovering.

Migratory Species Section

- Members noted international meetings to take place before the end of 2018:
 - Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Standing Committee

- Bilateral migratory bird meetings with Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA)
- Meeting of Parties to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership
- Meeting of signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which would consider including CMS-listed sharks in the MOU, and also consider other shark species including *Carcharhinus longimanus* (Oceanic White-tip) and *Rhynchobatus australiae* (White-spotted Wedgefish)¹. Prof Simpfendorfer advised that he would be attending this meeting.

Environmental Biosecurity Section

- The *Threat Abatement Plan for disease in natural ecosystems caused by Phytophthora cinnamomi* would be provided to the Minister soon for making.
- A review of the *Threat Abatement Plan to reduce the impacts on northern Australia's biodiversity by the five listed grasses* was about to commence.
- The Curiosity® cat bait was close to commercialisation.
- s22 would participate on the steering group for the Centre for Invasive Solutions Research, Development and Extension portfolio.
- Members noted the Intergovernmental Environment and Invasives Committee (which replaced the Invasive Plants and Animals Committee) had prepared a manual for state and local governments for managing incursions of invasive species into Australia.
- The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) has compiled a list of potential environmental invasive species and would conduct expert workshops.

The Committee:

- **noted** the updates provided by staff on work being undertaken by the Department.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Draft minutes of TSSC72 (June 2018)

- The Chair thanked members for providing rapid responses to out-of-session review of the minutes. All comments received had been incorporated into the draft minutes at [Item 2.1](#). Dr Mitchell provided some further comments to be incorporated.

The Committee:

- **agreed**, subject to all amendments being integrated, that the minutes were an accurate record of TSSC72 (June 2018) (Moved: Dr Legge, Seconded: Dr Mitchell).

2.2 Actions arising from previous meetings

- Members noted the actions completed since the last meeting and those that would be discussed later in the agenda.
- Members provided further updates on actions.

The Committee:

- **noted** the actions arising as detailed in [Item 2.2](#).
- **requested** that the action regarding advice on climate modelling for frogs be deleted as it was erroneously recorded
- **requested** that the action relating to correspondence with WA be updated to reflect that the Chair had received updates

¹ Prof Simpfendorfer later advised that the CMS meeting would consider *Sphyrna zygaena* (Smooth Hammerhead), and not *Rhynchobatus australiae* (White-spotted Wedgefish).

- **noted** that the letter to Minister about Lord Howe Island rodent eradication program has been drafted and would be provided to the chair

3. WORK PLANS

- Members noted progress in the work plans since TSSC72 (June 18)
- Members noted the decisions by the then Assistant Minister to:
 - accept the Committee's 2018 proposed priority assessment list of 74 species and two ecological communities without any changes
 - determine that *Galaxias truttaceus* (Western Australian population) be considered a species for the purposes of the Act
 - change the name change of *Galaxias truttaceus hesperius*
 - extend the assessment timeframe for *Myoporum turbinatum*
 - make the *Threat Abatement Plan* for the impacts of marine debris on the vertebrate wildlife of Australia's coasts and oceans.
- Members noted that the work plan had been updated to include the 2018 FPAL comprising 74 species and two ecological communities. In total 118 species and 12 communities, are under assessment by the Committee and one key threatening process assessment is being updated.

The Committee:

- **noted** decisions by the Minister since June 2018.
- **noted** the progress in the work plan since TSSC72 (June 2018).

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Correspondence since TSSC72

- Members noted correspondence with the Minister as summarised at Table 1 in Item 4.1.
- Members noted recent preliminary and final determinations by the NSW Scientific Committee, as well as proposals for listing and delisting species, as summarised at Table 2 of Item 4.1.
- Members noted correspondence with the Lord Howe Island Board, WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee and Hayes Environmental.
- Members agreed that the Chair would write to the new Minister to congratulate her on her appointment and provide an update on the work of the Committee.

The Committee:

- **noted** the letter from the Minister.
- **noted** other incoming letters and state committee advices.
- **noted** the outgoing correspondence.
- **agreed** that the Chair would write to Minister Price congratulating her on her appointment and providing an update on the Committee's work

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Future meetings

- Members noted that the Department was seeking formal agreement on dates for TSSC77 (Sep 2019)
- Members discussed TSSC74 (Nov 2018) and noted that Prof Dixon would be unavailable on Tuesday 13 November 2018 and Dr Legge would need to leave the meeting to participate in a conference.
- Members discussed the appointment of TSSC members and suggested that new members should not commence at the June meeting. Members were advised that the Craik review had considered appointments to the Committee, and suggested that transparency in the appointments process would be welcomed by stakeholders.

The Committee:

- **agreed** that TSSC77 will be held on 10-12 September 2019, with an informal day on 9 September.
- **agreed** that a workshop associated with TSSC74 (Nov 2018) was not required

5.2 Advice on payments to members and the budgetary outlook

- The Department advised members that the Committee's operating budget of \$350,000 for 2018/2019 had been confirmed. A bid for further funding to support the proposed strategic workshops was not successful, so these activities would need to be accommodated within the existing budget.
- The Department advised that there had been small increases in sitting fees and travel allowance in remuneration tribunal determinations on 5 September and 26 August 2018 respectively, so members would receive increased payments for the meeting

The Committee:

- **noted** the budget for 2018-2019 and the increase to remuneration tribunal payments for sitting fees and travel allowance

6. STRATEGIC ISSUES/POLICY ITEMS

6.1 Discussion with the Threatened Species Commissioner

- The Commissioner, Dr Sally Box, provided an update on recent activities.
- Year 3 reporting on the Threatened Species Strategy was progressing, with a report due to the Minister at the end of 2018. Some aspects of the data collection and reporting were challenging.
 - The NESP Threatened Species Recovery hub had been engaged to assist with data collection and preparation of score cards on the priority birds and mammals. Their results will be provided at TSSC74 (Nov 2018).
 - While there are no targets for priority plants at Year 3, a trial for selected plants would be undertaken in preparation for Year 5 reporting.
 - The RMIT University were engaged to conduct a survey on feral cats with 5000 individual responses and 400 responses from organisations received. The Commissioner's Office was working with Parks Australia and Department of Defence to obtain data on cat management activities on Commonwealth land.
- The Commissioner noted that there is work underway with the States and Territories to identify conservation actions and opportunities for the most imperilled birds and mammals (as identified by NESP researchers), many of which are also priority species in the Strategy. The Commissioner undertook to provide an update at TSSC74 (Nov 2018).
- The Commissioner advised that recommendations on final projects to be funded through the current iteration of the Threatened Species Recovery Fund were being finalised for the Minister. The majority of projects from the \$450 million Regional Land Partnerships program had identified threatened species and ecological community outcomes. Projects in subsequent years of that program were being evaluated, with some funding for emerging priorities.
- The Feral Cat Taskforce had met and discussed the community concerns with feral cat management in the United States, in the context of maintaining community support for cat management in Australia. The AVPMA attended the taskforce meeting, indicating that there were no remaining barriers to registration of the Curiosity® cat bait. There had been positive changes in state and territory legislation to enable cat management. There was growing interest in the environmental and human health threats posed by disease transmission by feral cats (e.g. toxoplasmosis). The next meeting would include discussion about a related Zoos Victoria education program. The Department of Defence is participating in taskforce activities in an effort to manage cats on Defence properties.
- The Commissioner discussed the 6th National Mallee-fowl Forum and noted the extraordinary commitment to conserving and monitoring the species, which has provided 30 years of data.

There is an overall downward trend in the species but it varies from state to state. Analysis presented showed that winter rains are important to breeding success and that there was no discernible correlation between fox control and populations.

- Members noted the impressive work by **s22** on enhanced Conservation Advice for Strategy priority plants. They noted the advices incorporated a comprehensive review of threats and established a logical connection between threats and actions, included costings and provided a useful template for resourcing actions. Members encouraged adoption of this approach for other species beyond the 30 priority plants.
- The Committee discussed potential funding for coordination of recovery actions or recovery teams. The Commissioner noted that there had been consideration of criteria for predicting whether a species would benefit from a recovery team (such as need for coordination, number of stakeholders and complexity of engagement, cross-jurisdiction or cross-tenure distribution, complexity of threats/management) but funding had not recently been allocated to coordinate teams. Many teams were already operating without Australian Government funding.
- Members noted the IUCN Species Survival Commission interest in developing a decision framework for captive breeding of fauna and a related project being undertaken by the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub. Members suggested that the two groups should share information and products.
- Members noted the use of the term 'social licence' in relation to feral cat control. Caution was urged about the use of the term in relation to threatened species recovery actions and encouraged the Committee and the Commissioner to discuss the concept further.
- Members discussed the Lord Howe Island rodent eradication program and noted a media article opposing the program. The Commissioner undertook to seek guidance from the program manager on potential assistance she may be able to provide.
- Members noted media interest in large-scale land-clearing in Queensland with potential impacts on Golden-shouldered Parrot. The Commissioner requested information from Environment Standards Division on EPBC Act approval related to the case.

The Committee:

- **noted** the Commissioner's recent activities and opportunities for cooperation.

6.2 Update on thinking around a national monitoring framework for threatened species and ecological communities

- The Committee discussed the approaches it might take to improve the monitoring of threatened species in Australia, noting that there have been numerous calls for improved monitoring from various sources over recent years, including successive State of the Environment reports, the Australian National Audit Office, non-government organisations and the research community (synthesised in the recent book *Monitoring Threatened Species and Ecological Communities* edited by Dr Legge and others).
- The Committee had previously agreed to write to the Minister recommending a threatened species monitoring program be established with an initial proof-of-concept focusing on the priority birds and mammals in the Threatened Species Strategy. The Department suggested that the Committee provide advice on how to improve monitoring and the pragmatic steps that could be taken by the Commonwealth, recognising that the majority of monitoring was undertaken by other levels of government and non-government organisations.
- The Committee noted that some of the enablers of improved monitoring were in place through initiatives such as the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) research infrastructures designed to aggregate and make available biodiversity information.
- The Committee further noted that significant monitoring and related research was underway or planned, including: monitoring of terrestrial and marine parks; monitoring and evaluating environmental water use in the Murray-Darling Basin; monitoring the benefits of investments through the Regional Land Partnerships program; evaluating the trajectories of priority birds and mammals for the Year 3 progress report on the Threatened Species Strategy; and NESP

Threatened Species Recovery Hub research projects on monitoring priorities and approaches. In addition, the Commonwealth was investing in species monitoring such as the National Flying-fox Monitoring Program coordinated by CSIRO.

- The Committee discussed the potential for new government investment in monitoring, noting that the funding required to undertake more systematic monitoring had not been quantified. Members noted that other sources of funding such as innovative partnerships with philanthropy or commercial investors could contribute to the establishment of monitoring programs, but were unlikely to support them in the long term.
- The Committee discussed mechanisms to engage with state and territory governments in national approaches to monitoring threatened biota, noting that a major government initiative was required to address the problem and meet international obligations.
- The Committee discussed barriers to improved monitoring, including the need for long term commitments (which are not attractive to government or the research sector), reconciling different methods and integration of data from different sources, potential duplication of effort, capacity and availability of reliable and cost-effective techniques.
- Members noted potential opportunities to improve monitoring stemming from new technologies (drones, eDNA), citizen science and big data/metadata management and analysis which increased information flow and reduced labour costs.
- The Committee discussed steps it could take in providing advice to the Department and the Minister, such as improved advice on monitoring in Conservation Advice and Recovery Plans, and integrating research outputs from the NESP TSR Hub into advice.
- The Committee noted that one approach would be the creation of a national policy framework, which could be referenced in the same way as Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia's *National Standards for Ecological Restoration*.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to raise the need to improve monitoring of threatened species and ecological communities in the letter to Minister Price. The letter would note the Committee's view that monitoring is key element of threatened species and ecological community conservation, likely further developments from the Threatened Species Strategy Year 3 targets analysis and National Environmental Science Program Threatened Species Research hub research projects, and anticipated improvements by the TSSC in the monitoring actions in future advice from the Committee.
- **agreed** to discuss monitoring further at TSSC74 (Nov 2018) in the context of the preliminary findings of the Threatened Species Strategy Year 3 targets.
- **agreed** to explore options for the committee to improve monitoring outcomes of threatened species within their legislative remit

6.3 Standard wording for use in stakeholder engagement for conservation advices

- Members discussed a possible approach to standard wording for stakeholder engagement in conservation advices (in the document titled *Community and stakeholder engagement wording in conservation advices*, circulated by Dr Kendal [subsequently loaded into govdex TSSC73 directory]).
- Members acknowledged that distinct stakeholder community groups should be identified and grouped based on shared:
 - Practices e.g. farmers, traditional owners, scientists, development contractors, visitors;
 - Interests e.g. economic interests, conservation groups, political interests; or
 - Location e.g. neighbours, local people.
- Dr Kendal agreed to develop a discussion document that includes a problem statement, identify groups which could have appropriate engagement processes described in standard words and to consider the role of community engagement in conservation activities, for example abating or mitigating a threat, undertaking monitoring or supporting research.

- Members noted that Indigenous people can be traditional owners or have an interest without being a traditional owner. Members agreed to provide Dr Kendal's discussion document to the IAC and agreed to seek their advice on Indigenous engagement.
- Members raised the value of making spatial data on threatened species and ecological communities and threats available so these data can be integrated into systems used by management agencies and the community.

The Committee:

- **agreed** Dr Kendal will develop a stakeholder engagement standard wording discussion paper
- **agreed** to seek advice from the Indigenous Advisory Committee on standard words on engaging Indigenous community in conservation action
- **agreed** to consider the standard words again at TSSC74 (Nov 2018)

6.4 Meeting with s22 [REDACTED] Advisor to the Minister)

- s22 [REDACTED] was unable to attend the meeting.

The Committee:

- **noted** that s22 [REDACTED] would be invited to attend TSSC74 (Nov 2018)

6.5 Theme for the 2019 call for nominations

- Members discussed three potential conservation themes for the 2019 call for nominations. The Committee preferred a threat-based theme and discussed potential themes relating to the threats of invasive species and changes to ecological flow regimes.
- The Committee agreed to propose 'Species and ecological communities that are severely affected by fire regimes' as the theme for 2019, to link the call for nominations with updating the fire key threatening process assessment and draw attention to this threat.
- The Committee recommended that wording about the relative priority of key threatening process nominations should not be proposed to the Minister.
- Members agreed to discuss nomination themes with the IAC, and with an Indigenous representative on the TSSC should one be appointed, with a view to proposing a theme like "Species and ecological communities of importance to Indigenous people" in future years.
- The Department noted concerns raised by the IAC about the nomination process being difficult to access for Indigenous people. The Committee suggested that a collaborative nomination process would help avoid the risk of nominations being developed then not prioritised for assessment.

The Committee:

- **discussed** the options for establishing a conservation theme or themes for the 2019 call for nominations.
- **agreed** that a conservation theme of 'Species and ecological communities that are severely affected by fire regimes' be recommended to the Minister for the 2019 call for nominations.

6.6 Implementation of the Common Assessment Method

- The Department noted that the Common Assessment Method Working Group held a productive face to face meeting in Brisbane in June.
- The Department noted the dispute resolution process was being constructively progressed for *Lerista lineata* and *Myoporum turbinatum*.
- The Department noted that as the collaboration with the states and territories through the Common Assessment Method matured, the number and complexity of information requests were increasing. It proposed that requests needing technical input would be provided to the Committee and administrative, process and information requests would be followed up by the Department. Members found the table of issues provided by the Department very useful.

- Members discussed *Chalcites osculans* (Black-eared Cuckoo) and noted that while a decline in population was suggested it was not enough to suggest that the species is nationally threatened. It may warrant listing in NSW, in which case NSW will undertake a state-scale assessment. Members noted the inferences made in the assessment, based on population changes in a subset of the known hosts. Members noted generation length (vs generation interval) data were unconvincing.
- Members discussed the request from Victoria for advice on whether *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* (Platypus) is likely to be eligible for threatened species listing at the national scale. The Department noted that Victoria had received a public nomination for the species. Members discussed the status of the species and requested that the Department seek advice from ARC Linkage and NESP TSR Hub researchers working on the species before responding to Victoria.
- The Department discussed *Hippocampus whitei* (White's Seahorse), noting that NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee had offered to lead a cross-jurisdictional assessment of the species.

The Committee:

- **noted** the progress of the Common Assessment Method, particularly in policy and governance arrangements.
- **agreed to** the proposed approach for handling information requests from the states/territories under the CAM.
- **advised** that the cross-jurisdictional species *Chalcites osculans* (Black-eared Cuckoo) is unlikely to be nationally threatened
- **agreed** to seek further advice on *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* (Platypus) from ARC and NESP researchers before providing a response to the Victorian Scientific Advisory Committee.
- **agreed** to the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee leading a CAM-compliant assessment for *Hippocampus whitei* (White's Seahorse)

s47C

6.8 Background paper on the process of developing ecological community conservation advices

- Members discussed the progress of the list of threatened ecological communities and the process of developing ecological community conservation advices. Members noted the systematic landscape approach being taken to identifying potentially threatened ecological communities and assessing and listing them. Members noted the efficiency and effectiveness of this approach.
- The Department noted that NSW and the Commonwealth are most active in listing threatened ecological communities. Other states and territories have lists that are not as complete or do not afford statutory protection. Members noted that there are alternative beneficial state and territory approaches to native vegetation and ecosystem protection, such as the regional ecosystem mapping in Queensland.
- Members supported dedicated engagement with the agriculture sector and implementation of the Common Assessment Method for threatened ecological communities and recommended that the Minister be briefed on these priorities in the context of the Craik Review and upcoming EPBC Act Statutory Review respectively.
- Members noted that there was a limited number of threatened ecological communities under Indigenous management, because of the focus to date on highly modified and cleared landscapes. Members noted that continuing to engage Indigenous people in threatened ecological community assessment, listing and recovery is valuable.
- Members noted the value of the background document and asked for a similar document to be prepared summarising the approach to development of Recovery Plans.

The Committee:

- **noted** the progress on the national list of ecological communities and evolution of the Committee's advice to the Minister on ecological communities since the EPBC Act commenced in 2000.
- **discussed** some of the challenges in building the national list and preparing advices of a high standard to effect good conservation outcomes (in the lead up to a proposed workshop).

6.9 Conservation Dependent workshop report

- Members discussed the Conservation Dependent (CD) workshop held in July 2018, attended by Prof Marsh and Prof Simpfendorfer, noting that it was a very beneficial and would improve the process and enable better information dissemination.
- The workshop highlighted the complexity of CD assessments, which was in part because the outcome was equivalent to a listing assessment and a recovery plan with implementation arrangements in place under law.
- Members noted while the underlying intent of engaging management authorities in conservation action was sound, the way that CD listing is structured in the Act is problematic. CD listing does not align with the IUCN categories. It does not convey the status of imperilled biodiversity, because it provides for CD listing as an alternative to listing in the threatened categories. Members suggested that this be considered in the EPBC Act review.
- Members provided suggested improvements to the draft CD Decision Support Tool which was developed from the workshop, including more clearly identifying the considerations and recommendations for both CD and threatened categories.
- Members noted that communications materials were being considered, and provided some suggestions on draft fact sheets.

The Committee:

- **noted** the proposed outputs to be delivered by NESP as part of currently-in-development Shark Action Plan, and offered suggestions on improvements to the Decision Support Tool

6.10 Presentation on the NSW model for funding conservation actions for threatened species

- Members welcomed s47F, Senior Project Officer, Threatened Species Conservation from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage via Skype.
- s47F provided a presentation [subsequently loaded into govdex TSSC73 directory] and discussed the *Saving our Species* program being undertaken by the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage. He noted the program was initiated following extensive investment in recovery planning in NSW with limited discernible benefit.
- s47F outlined the process used to group species into funding streams, highlighting the involvement of stakeholders in an objective and transparent process.
- s47F identified challenges including linking outcomes to actions and sites, increasing adaptive capacity (particularly in the context of climate change) and achieving complementarity across species in different funding streams.
- Members discussed how the funding is allocated, operational decision-making, maximising benefits and conservation planning.
- Members asked if the drought had affected the program. s47F indicated that there would possibly be some impact on achievement of objectives and monitoring.
- The Committee thanked s47F for his time and invited him to attend workshops next year to provide input on conservation planning. s47F invited interested members of the Department and the Committee to participate in steering groups for the *Saving our Species* program.

The Committee:

- **discussed** the approach taken to prioritising and planning for species conservation in NSW under the *Saving our Species* program.
- agreed to send a letter of thanks to s47F for his input

7. SPECIES

Consultation

s47C

s47C, s47F

7.2 Common Assessment Method – new state-led species assessments

- The Committee discussed assessments of seven plant species provided by states and territories through the Common Assessment Method.
- Five of the species (two from WA and three from NSW) were state endemic species which had been assessed by the relevant state using the Common Assessment Method. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to advise her that these species should be added to the 2018 Finalised Priority Assessment List.
- The Committee also discussed assessments of two cross-jurisdictional species which were led by New South Wales. These species were added to the 2018 FPAL at TSSC72 (June 2018). Members asked if Queensland had been consulted on these species and the Department advised that Queensland input had been incorporated into the assessments.
- Members discussed each of the species and provided comments and suggested improvements.
- Members agreed that the assessment outcome for *Rhizanthella gartneri* was correct. Members noted taxonomic uncertainty and challenges with quantifying decline in a species with a cryptic growth form. Members asked that the advice be clarified to make key points about decline, fluctuation in populations and drivers of population change clearer. Prof Dixon advised that there had been comprehensive surveys by WWF in the 1980's for this species across populations of the known host plant, and offered to contribute a personal communication to the assessment on this. Members suggested that this study be referenced as a baseline in the monitoring section of the advice.
- Members asked about the arrangements governing taxonomy of Australia flora and fauna, and recognition of taxonomic and nomenclature changes in particular. The Department undertook to provide a paper on this at a future meeting.
- Members agreed that the assessment outcome for *Acacia dangarensis* was correct. Members expressed concern that increasing abundance of *Opuntia* species could affect the fire regime and threaten *Acacia dangarensis*. Fire management is likely to be important for the conservation of the species so research actions (such as germination experiments) were needed, to avoid having to rely on inference from related species. Members felt that recommended actions related to fire management were not warranted without further information.
- For *Nitella parooensis*, members suggested that a plain English description was required. Members questioned whether sheep and cattle grazing and trampling were potential threats as well as pigs. Members noted that conservation actions relating to habitat loss could be more direct and explicit, for example in evaluating the need for fencing of sites. Members suggested

that some technical issues be resolved before consultation such as mentioning seeds/seedlings when this species does not reproduce by seeds. Suggested that the advice refer to recruits or spores. Members suggested an addition action in the Information and Research priorities to understand the hydrological and salinity regimes which support the species persistence.

- For *Plinthanthesis rodwayi*, members questioned the conclusion that the species had undergone 'severe fragmentation', noting that it did not change the assessment outcome because it only occurs at one location. The Committee noted that maintenance and future enhancement of telecommunications infrastructure within the limited range of the species poses a significant threat.
- For *Rhodamnia rubescens* and *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*, members agreed with the recommendation not to have a recovery plan, and suggested that these two imperilled species provide a useful opportunity to communicate the value of conservation advice. Members agreed that the assessment of the two species as Critically Endangered was appropriate. Members noted that further population information was available which was not presented in the assessments. Prof Keith undertook to request this information from NSW colleagues. Members also noted that the species would be eligible for listing against other criteria, potentially in lower categories, and suggested that this be incorporated into the assessments out of session.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to add two WA species (*Rhizanthella gardneri* and *R. johnstonii*) and three NSW species (*Acacia dangarensis*, *Nitella parooensis* and *Plinthanthesis rodwayi*) to the 2018 FPAL with an assessment completion time of 12 months after the state provides updated assessments incorporating any feedback from the Committee.
- **agreed** to write to the Minister for the Environment advising that these five species have been added to the 2018 FPAL.
- **agreed** that Prof Keith would seek additional analysis from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage on two cross-jurisdictional species (*Rhodamnia rubescens* and *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*)
- **agreed** to release the assessments for the two WA and three NSW species (above) and two cross-jurisdictional species (*Rhodamnia rubescens* and *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*), for public consultation using the agreed questions, once suggested amendments had been incorporated by the relevant jurisdictions.
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister the following listing decisions for the seven species, if no comments are received:
 - *Rhizanthella gardneri* – up-listing from Endangered to Critically Endangered
 - *Rhizanthella johnstonii* – listing as Critically Endangered
 - *Acacia dangarensis* – listing as Critically Endangered
 - *Nitella parooensis* – listing as Critically Endangered
 - *Plinthanthesis rodwayi* – up-listing from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered
 - *Rhodamnia rubescens* – listing as Critically Endangered
 - *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* – listing as Critically Endangered
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister the following Recovery Plan recommendations for the seven species, if no comments are received:
 - *Rhizanthella gardneri* – Recovery Plan not required
 - *Rhizanthella johnstonii* – Recovery Plan not required
 - *Acacia dangarensis* – Recovery Plan not required
 - *Nitella parooensis* – Recovery Plan not required
 - *Plinthanthesis rodwayi* – Recovery Plan not required
 - *Rhodamnia rubescens* – Recovery Plan not required
 - *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* – Recovery Plan not required

7.3 *Hirundapus caudacatus* (White-throated Needletail)

- The Committee discussed the consultation document for the assessment of *Hirundapus caudacatus* (White-throated Needletail), noting that the major threat to this species is deforestation that occurs in their breeding range outside Australia.

- Members provided comments about the format and structure of the documents along with written comments which were incorporated into a revised consultation document which was considered later in the meeting. Members provided written comments on the revised version.
- Members discussed the appropriate approach to considering the Australian status of the species in the context of its international migratory range. The Department noted that the approach taken to this species was consistent with that used in recent assessments of threatened migratory shorebirds.
- Members considered the need for species-specific monitoring actions to be included in the assessment and suggested that Professor Richard Fuller be asked to provide input.

The Committee:

- **agreed** that the revised Consultation Document, incorporating further comments provided by Dr Campbell and Ms Gilfedder, be released for public and expert consultation.

7.4 Conservation Advice for *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Australasian Bittern)

- The Committee noted that Australasian Bittern does not have a recovery plan and needed a new Conservation Advice. They noted that monitoring and habitat management are key to conservation of this species.
- Members agreed that relevant stakeholders had been engaged in the preparation of the draft Conservation Advice and that it provided useful guidance to decision makers.
- The Committee noted with concern that flooded rice paddies being used by bitterns were being converted to cotton fields. The Committee agreed that this threat was not clearly identified in threats table.
- Members discussed approaches to classification of threats, including the IUCN Threats Classification Scheme, and agreed that there would be benefits to a more systematic approach to classifying and presenting threats.
 - Members discussed the IUCN classification and work done by the Department to group similar threats in existing Conservation Advice. The Department undertook to provide the summary list of threats from that analysis.
 - Members discussed the threats table and agreed to amend the table to present threats in order of severity.
 - They felt that the numbering of threats was potentially confusing and agreed to remove the numbering from the table.
 - Members discussed a threat typology and rating system and provided an example threat severity and extent rating system based on the IUCN approach. Members suggested that definitions of the ratings could be included as a footnote to the table in the Conservation Advice.
 - The Department noted that the presentation of the table may have unintended consequences when used in the approvals process under the EPBC Act, and undertook to consult with Environment Standards Division.
- Members discussed other threats, such as fire, which is used as a wetland management tool, and infrastructure, which is encroaching on urban habitat.
- Members asked if the spatial mapping of the distribution of the species was being updated based on data referenced in the Conservation Advice. The Department advised that biodiversity observations were progressively aggregated from state and territory governments and non-government organisations and, if new observations significantly changed the modelled distribution, the mapping would be updated.
- The Committee noted that s22 had move to a new role in the Department and thanked him for his contributions to the Committee and wished him well in the future

The Committee:

- **agreed** that the threat table be amended to remove the threat numbering and introduce two new columns that are titled 'severity' and 'extent'
- **agreed** to the Conservation Advice with the modifications suggested.
- **agreed** to provide the Conservation Advice to the Minister's delegate to enable him to meet Section 266B of the EPBC Act.
- **considered** a revised threats table and associated thresholds
- **requested** that the department consult with EPBC Act approvals officers to identify any unintended consequences arising from the revised threats table and update the Committee at TSSC74 (Nov 18)

7.5 Eight mammal species (*Zyomys palatalis* (Carpentarian Rock-rat), *Melomys rubicola* (Bramble Cay Melomys), *Bettongia garmardi* (Eastern Bettong), *Vombatus ursinus ursinus* (Common Wombat (Bass Strait)), *Notamacropus eugenii eugenii* (Tammar Wallaby (South Australia)), *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest-tailed Mulgara), *Mesembriomys macrurus* (Golden-backed Tree-rat), and *Pseudantechinus mimulus* (Carpentarian Antechinus))

- Members discussed the final advice on eight mammal species and provided editorial changes to the documents in writing to the secretariat.
- Members agreed *Melomys rubicola* (Bramble Cay Melomys) is extinct and provided suggested improvements to the framing of the Conservation Advice. Members noted that this would be the most recent mammal extinction to be formally recognised under the EPBC Act, so would require communications material for the media.
- Members discussed *Zyomys palatalis* (Carpentarian Rock-rat) and agreed it is Endangered. The Committee provided suggested changes to the presentation and structure of the information in the conservation advice.
- Members discussed *Bettongia gaimardii* (Eastern Bettong), and agreed that there was no convincing evidence of it being eligible for listing. Members provided suggested changes to the presentation of the data in the figures in the conservation advice and to the threats table.
- Members discussed *Vombatus ursinus ursinus* (Common Wombat (Bass Strait)), *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest tailed Mulgara), *Mesembriomys macrurus* (Golden-backed Tree-rat) and *Pseudantechinus mimulus* (Carpentarian Antechinus) and agreed they be removed from the Vulnerable category as they were no longer eligible for inclusion. Members noted that the approach taken to interpreting Extent of Occurrence under Criterion B should be consistent for all four species.

The Committee:

- **noted** the information provided relating to the assessments and the comments received during the consultation period at [Items 7.5.3–7.5.10](#)
- **agreed**, subject to the suggested amendments, to provide the Conservation/Listing Advices ([Items 7.5.3–7.5.10](#)) to the Minister as the Committee's written assessment
- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister retain *Zyomys palatalis* in the Endangered category under the EPBC Act
- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister list *Melomys rubicola* in the Extinct category under the EPBC Act
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that *Bettongia gaimardii* is not eligible for listing in any threat category under the EPBC Act
- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister delete *Vombatus ursinus ursinus*, *Dasyercus cristicauda*, *Mesembriomys macrurus* and *Pseudantechinus mimulus* from the Vulnerable category of the EPBC Act, as they are no longer eligible for inclusion in any category under the EPBC Act
- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister delete *Notamacropus eugenii eugenii* from the Extinct category of the Act as it is no longer eligible for inclusion in any category under the EPBC Act
- **agreed** to recommend deleting *Vombatus ursinus ursinus*, *Dasyercus cristicauda*, *Mesembriomys macrurus* and *Notamacropus eugenii eugenii* from the list, which will not have a detrimental impact on the continued survival of these species/subspecies

- agreed to provide advice to the Minister that there should not be a recovery plan for *Zygomys palatalis* and *Pseudantechinus mimulus*, and that these species undergo the subsequent recovery plan decision process

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7.7 *Bruguiera hainesii* (Haines's Orange Mangrove)

- The Department reported on public consultation for this species, noting that there had been no significant changes to the Conservation Advice as a result of consultation.
- Two expert comments were received about research undertaken and habitat loss.
- Members discussed the need for a recovery plan.
- Members undertook to provide suggested changes and comments to the Department, noting that the distribution section should refer to the Australian population as an outlier of a distant international population.

The Committee:

- **noted** the information provided related to this assessment and the comments received during the consultation period at [Item 7.7.4](#)
- **agreed**, subject to suggested amendments being incorporated, to provide the conservation advice ([Item 7.7.1](#)) to the Minister as the Committee's written assessment.
- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister list *Bruguiera hainesii* in the Critically Endangered category under the Act
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that there should not be a recovery plan for this species

7.8 *Oberonia attenuata* (Mossman Fairy Orchid)

- The Department presented the draft *Oberonia attenuata* (Mossman Fairy Orchid) assessment, noting it had previously been considered extinct until discovered in Daintree National Park and had been transferred into the Critically Endangered category.
- Three comments had been received in response to consultation on the assessment, all of which supported the continued listing of the species and raised the risk of continued illegal collection.
- Members provided suggested changes and comments to the Department, including strengthening the narrative about the extinction and rediscovery of the species.
- On the basis of reports of 20 plants observed as being taken from the population, the Committee agreed that the species was projected to undergo a decline of more than 30% over three generations making it eligible to be retained in the Critically Endangered category.
- Members discussed and agreed that there is no need for a recovery plan for the species.

The Committee:

- **noted** the information provided related to this assessment and the comments received during the consultation period at [Item 7.8.4](#)
- **agreed**, subject to suggested amendments being incorporated, to provide the Conservation Advice ([Item 7.8.1](#)) to the Minister as the Committee's written assessment
- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister retain *Oberonia attenuata* in the Critically Endangered category under the EPBC Act
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that there should not be a recovery plan for this species

7.9 Common Assessment Method – species for further consideration (*Melaleuca* sp. Wanneroo (G.J.Keighery 16705) and *Spicospina flammocaerulea* (Sunset Frog))

- The Committee discussed the need for recovery plans for *Melaleuca* sp. Wanneroo (G.J.Keighery 16705) and *Spicospina flammocaerulea* (Sunset Frog) based on additional information provided by Western Australia. The Committee noted that WA had committed to preparing a recovery plan for *Melaleuca* sp. Wanneroo (G.J.Keighery 16705) for adoption under the EPBC Act.

The Committee:

- **noted** the additional information from Western Australia in relation to the Recovery Plan decisions for *Melaleuca* sp. Wanneroo (G.J.Keighery 16705) and *Spicospina flammocaerulea* (Sunset Frog).
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that a Recovery Plan is required for *Melaleuca* sp. Wanneroo (G.J. Keighery 16705).
- **agreed** to recommend that a Recovery Plan is not required for *Spicospina flammocaerulea*.(Sunset Frog)

7.10 Name changes woodland bird

- Members discussed and agreed to a name change for *Psophodes nigrogularis leucogaster* (Mallee Western Whipbird).

The Committee:

- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister's delegate the following nomenclatural change in the list of threatened species: *Psophodes nigrogularis leucogaster* to *Psophodes leucogaster leucogaster*

7.11 Extension to assessment timeframe for twelve species and four ecological communities

(*Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion), *Philotheca sporadica* (Kogan Waxflower), *Petrogale concinna concinna* (Nabarlek (Victoria River District)), *Pseudantechinus mimulus* (Carpentarian Antechinus); *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider); *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse); *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum*; *Petaurus australis* Wet Tropics subspecies (Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics)); *Dasyurus maculatus* (Spotted-tail Quoll (south-east mainland)); *Asterolasia asteriscophora* subsp *albiflora* (White Star Bush); *Potorous longipes* (Long-footed Potoroo) and *Prasophyllum litorale* (Coastal Leek Orchid), and Illawarra-Shoalhaven subtropical rainforest, Robertson Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, Karst rising springs of south east South Australia, River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of New South Wales)

- The Department sought the Committee's agreement to request extensions to the assessment completion timeframes for twelve species and four ecological communities.
- The Department is encouraging early engagement with jurisdictions, making conservation advices clear and incorporating items that can be used by jurisdictions such as Criterion D2 for Vulnerable species which is not currently recognised under the EPBC Act.
- Members raised concerns that deadlines had already been extended for some species which were prioritised in 2016 and noted that there were a further seven species due in March some of which may need an extension.
- Members noted that other, unanticipated, work was drawing down capacity to undertake assessments particularly for ecological communities, but overall good progress was being made.
- Members noted the Department's intention to bring final advice to the Committee at least one meeting before it was due where possible, to allow time for final changes or requests for extensions.
- Members discussed the proposed changes to the Conservation Advice template, and agreed to the approach of separating assessment and listing outcomes. The Committee asked that the Department develop clear standard words for each scenario in which the assessment and listing outcome do not align. Members asked that the reworked threats table be incorporated into the template, once it is finalised.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister extend the assessment completion timeframes for twelve species, to allow sufficient time to finalise the assessments and/or resolve any disputes raised by states/territories.
 - Three species: *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion), *Philotheca sporadica* (Kogan Waxflower) and *Petrogale concinna concinna* (Nabarlek (Victoria River District)) until 30 March 2019.
 - Nine species: *Pseudantechinus mimulus* (Carpentarian Antechinus); *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider); *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse); *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum*; *Petaurus australis* Wet Tropics subspecies (Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics)); *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (Spotted-tail Quoll (south-east mainland)); *Asterolasia asteriscophora* subsp *albiflora* (White Star Bush); *Potorous longipes* (Long-footed Potoroo) and *Prasophyllum litorale* (Coastal Leek Orchid) until 30 September 2019.
- **agreed** to the proposed approach for managing the timeframe for species assessments so as to avoid the need for the dispute resolution process under the Common Assessment Method (CAM), where possible.
- **agreed** to the proposed amendments to the species Conservation Advice template, with revisions to improve the clarity of listing outcome paragraphs for each of the possible scenarios.
- **agreed** to recommend that the Minister extend the assessment completion timeframe for four ecological communities:
 - Two ecological communities: Illawarra-Shoalhaven subtropical rainforest, and Robertson Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion until 30 April 2019.
 - One ecological community: Karst rising springs of south east SA until 31 July 2019.
 - One ecological community: River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of NSW until 31 October 2019.

7.12 Initiation of a Species Expert Assessment Plan (SEAP) for Eucalypts

- The Department provided background on the IUCN assessment of Australian Eucalypts. Members noted a desire to cooperate on the assessment, with some concern about capacity and timeframes.
- Members noted that the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub would support the assessment and engage a project officer working with Professor Rod Fensham.
- Members noted that the project team is aiming to deliver rapid assessments of taxa already listed by the Commonwealth and/or states and territories to the IUCN by March 2019, then more detailed CAM-compliant assessments for the species identified as being eligible for listing as threatened.
- Members noted that workshops were planned by the end of 2019 with experts and state agencies. The Common Assessment Method Working Group had been informed about the assessment and would be included in future communications.
- Members welcomed the assessment, noting it would provide an efficient means to update the threatened species list for Eucalyptus taxa. Members discussed examples that may present challenges in the assessment such as long-lived species which have large subcontinental distributions that have undergone significant declines over three generations. These declines had been offset by high density regrowth.
- Members noted that Dr Jane Elith had modelled distributions of twelve Eucalyptus species using presence and absence data that provided more robust results which could be used to estimate declines. The Committee suggested that she being involved in the assessment.
- Members were advised that the IUCN is also proposing an assessment of Australian Proteaceae, led by Mr Neil Cox (IUCN Biodiversity Assessment Unit). The assessment will involve expert workshops in Perth in October 2018 and Melbourne in early 2019 funded by a corporate sponsorship from Toyota. The Department noted that it had not been aware of this proposal until it was raised in a recent CAM Working Group meeting.
- Members asked to be kept informed of progress.

The Committee:

- **noted** the development of the Species Expert Assessment Plan (SEAP) for Eucalypts and proposed timing and deliverables.

8. KEY THREATENING PROCESSES

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9. ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

9.1 Mabi Forest Draft Conservation Advice

- The Department provided the draft Mabi Forest Draft Conservation Advice for comment. The sunseting date for the current Recovery Plan for this ecological community has been extended to April 2022 under the thematic review. The Department considers providing updated information on the Mabi Forest to be a priority. The draft Conservation Advice was modelled on advices recently developed for listed ecological communities in Western Australia. It was developed in consultation with the recovery team and the Queensland Herbarium.
- Members discussed the Conservation Advice and complimented Mr Chalklen for the quality of the document. Members provided comments and suggested changes to the Department including greater consistency in the use of terms 'patches' 'fragments' and 'remnants' of the community, emphasising restoration and connectivity, recognising local government as a stakeholder, removing duplicated content in the description and distribution sections and broadening monitoring to include responses to natural disasters.
- Members agreed there was a continuing need for a recovery plan for the ecological community, noting it is supported by an active and engaged recovery team, and recommended that this community not be included in the subsequent recovery plan decision process. The Queensland government would be unwilling to prepare a revised plan as they have moved away from recovery planning, but we would expect to be able to get input from them via the Queensland Herbarium.
- Members suggested that connecting the Mabi Forest recovery team with other teams working on threatened rainforest ecological communities (notably the Big Scrub Landcare group) may be beneficial.

The Committee:

- **agreed**, subject to changes proposed by the Committee, to recommend that the Minister approve the draft conservation advice at [Item 9.1.1](#).
- **agreed** that a recovery plan continues to be required for this ecological community.

10. RECOVERY PLANS

10.1 Recovery Plan for *Lathamus discolor* (Swift Parrot)

- The Department provided the revised recovery plan for *Lathamus discolor* (Swift Parrot), noting that the current recovery plan is in force until April 2022. The plan had been revised in consultation with the recovery team, key researchers and other stakeholders including Sustainable Timber Tasmania who are developing management plans for key southern forest habitats. The Department proposed that the draft plan be released for public comment.
- Members suggested changes to clarify the objectives, make sections of the plan more specific and actively framed, resolve some points of ambiguity and reprioritise the recovery strategies to place greater emphasis on avoiding habitat loss and engaging the community in citizen science data collection.
- Members discussed the need for captive breeding, noting advice from the Department that the Recovery Team had not seen captive breeding as a priority at this time and not necessarily compatible with wide-ranging migratory species. Members noted that the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub was developing a decision framework for captive breeding and suggested that the Swift Parrot would make an interesting test case.
- Members noted that \$1.5m in research funding had been provided to the species through a research offset on a mining development in New South Wales. The Recovery Team had prioritised investment of these funds in managing threats and habitat in Tasmania. The Committee discussed the offset arrangement and noted the potential conservation benefits, provided it was part of an overall strategy for the species.

The Committee:

- **agreed**, subject to suggested amendments being incorporated, to the release of the draft National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot ([Item 10.1.1](#)) for a three month public consultation process.

10.1a Recovery Plan for *Lathamus discolor* (Swift Parrot): Costing of actions in recovery plans

- Members discussed the costing information included in the recovery plan and agreed that the information should not be included in the consultation draft.
- Professor Stephen Garnett provided systematic estimates of costs for the plan using the Charles Darwin University costing spreadsheet. He estimated that it took 4-5 hours to cost the plan, noting that this did not include consultation. Members thanked Stephen Garnett for his work on estimating the costs.
- Members noted that the Department and state and territory agencies had concerns with costing the actions in recovery plans and their value in securing funds for implementation. Members asked the Department to prepare a paper outlining those concerns as an input to further discussion on costing of recovery plans at TSSC (Nov 2018). The Committee invited Prof Garnett and Ms Kylie Jonasson, First Assistant Secretary of Biodiversity Conservation Division, to participate.

The Committee:

- **agreed** that detailed costing and references to 'core government business' should not be included in the document released for public comment
- **agreed** to write to Professor Garnett thanking him for his work on costing the recovery plan and inviting him to attend TSSC74 (Nov 2018) by Skype to discuss the approach taken
- **asked** the Department to provide a paper to TSSC74 (Nov 2018) about the objectives, opportunities and limitations of costing recovery plans.

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11. THREAT ABATEMENT PLANS

11.1 Proposed novel biota key threatening process prioritisation tool

- Members discussed the draft novel biota key threatening process (KTP) decision support tool.
- The Committee held a workshop on the novel biota KTP in early 2016 and subsequently revised the tool. The feedback from the workshop has been incorporated and the tool has been split into four tables. A fifth summary table is based on information from other tables and shows what the decision is and how it has been made. The Department sought feedback on potential improvements to the draft tool.
- The Committee noted the table had some formatting issues but considered that it was potentially very useful and provided an overall summary that would support further discussions and identification of species within the novel biota KTP which should be prioritised for threat abatement.
- Members suggested a reconsideration of the confidence rating to clarify whether the confidence related to quantified evidence or expert estimation.
- Members suggested that impacts on other Matters of National Environmental Significance be included in the tool.
- Members questioned the use of keystone species in the tool. The Department agreed that the term was problematic, but needed to be considered in the decision. The Committee suggested that it could be a less formal consideration.
- The Committee agreed to re-visit the tool at the KTP strategic workshop.
- Members suggested that the Invasive Species Council workshop being held in November 2018 maybe provide the Department with opportunity to present the tool and demonstrate the work of the Committee on key threatening processes. The Department will write to Mr Andrew Cox from the Invasive Species Council and offer to present at their workshop.

The Committee:

- [reviewed the Novel Biota KTP prioritisation decision support tool and provided feedback on suggested improvements.](#)

11.2 National Invasive Ant Plan (tramp ants)

- The Department provided the revised National Invasive Ant Plan.
- Members noted that the issues raised in considering the plan at TSSC72 (Jun 2018) had been addressed, and that the document was well cross-referenced and a provided a good model of partnership between the environment and agriculture sectors on threat abatement.
- The Department noted that the Committee's feedback had been influential when engaging with the Department of Agriculture on the plan and implementation arrangements.

The Committee:

- [endorsed the National Invasive Ant Biosecurity Plan and Implementation Summary to be released for public consultation.](#)

CLOSING REMARKS

- Members requested that papers for the meeting on govdex be organised and highlighted to assist with downloading.
- Members thanked Secretariat for their support, with particular thanks to s22 and s22.

The Committee:

- **formally thanked** the Departmental officers and members of the TSSC for their work on TSSC73.
- The meeting closed at 3pm on Thursday 6 September.

The Committee declares that these minutes are an accurate record of the 73rd meeting.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee

12 November 2018

Guest and Departmental attendance

Guests (external)

Professor Stuart Bunn, Griffith University

Professor David Keith, University of New South Wales

s47F [redacted], Senior Project Officer, Threatened Species Conservation, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

Executives

Ms Kylie Jonasson, First Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Conservation Division

Dr Sally Box, Threatened Species Commissioner

Mr Geoff Richardson, Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division

Officers

<p>Species Information & Policy Section, PSC, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]</p>	<p>Ecological Communities Section, PSC, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]</p>	<p>Terrestrial Threatened Species Section, PSC, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted] s22 [redacted] s22 [redacted] s22 [redacted] s22 [redacted]</p>
<p>Marine & Freshwater Species Section, PSC, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]</p>	<p>Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted] [redacted]</p>	<p>Environmental Biosecurity Section, WTB, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted] [redacted]</p>
<p>Migratory Species, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]</p>	<p>Science Partnerships</p> <p>s22 [redacted] [redacted]</p>	

THREATENED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Meeting 74: 12–13 November 2018, Canberra

MINUTES

Committee attendance:

Professor Helene Marsh, Dr Hamish Campbell, Professor Kingsley Dixon, Ms Louise Gilfedder, Dr David Kendal, Dr Sarah Legge, Dr Nicola Mitchell, Professor Colin Simpfendorfer

1. OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome to members and Chair's opening remarks

- The Chair requested an additional item be included in the agenda (now at item 12.1 Additional Business) to discuss Threat Abatement Plans and partnerships in relation to the Australian Pest Animal Strategy. Dr Sarah Legge and Dr Julie Quinn were asked to lead the discussion.

The Chair:

- **acknowledged** the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which members were meeting
- **welcomed** members to the meeting and **welcomed** Professor Keith in his capacity as an expert advisor
- **thanked** the Department for preparation of materials for the meeting
- **acknowledged** the substantial work of s22 [REDACTED] on *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri* (Leadbeater's Possum)
- **noted** the continued vacancies on the Committee and the imminent completion of terms for a further three members
- **tabled** Professor Stuart Bunn's apology and **noted** that Dr Sarah Legge will be absent on Monday afternoon and Professor Kingsley Dixon will be absent on Tuesday.

1.2 Declaration of Interests (under EPBC Reg. 15.1)

- The Committee noted the following members' declarations of interests (which may include direct or indirect pecuniary interests) relevant to the Committee's considerations.
- Professor Marsh:
 - National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Tropical Water Quality Hub funding recipient and member of Scientific Advisory Committee. Sirenian IUCN specialist group co-chair. Reviewer of *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012*. Funding received from the Department for cetacean and dugong research. Member of Gladstone Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel. Member of the Independent Scientific Panel for Reef 2050. Leading the Reef Integrated Monitoring megafauna team. Natural heritage expert on Australia's delegation to the World Heritage Committee. Member of the Advisory Committee for Townsville Port. Council member of the Australian Academy of Science (noted that there may be a scheduling clash with TSSC79 (March 2020)).
- Dr Campbell:
 - Funding recipient for a project on habitat selection by *Numenius madagascariensis* (Eastern Curlew). Undertaking a project with Rio Tinto. Engaged in consultancy with Vista Gold on *Erythrura gouldiae* (Gouldian Finch).
- Professor Dixon:
 - Research grants received from Alcoa, BHP Billiton Iron Ore, BMP Oceania, P/L, Mitsui & Co (Australia), Fortescue Metals Group, Karara, Sinosteel Metals Corporation, Polaris, Cliffs, Grange resources, Iuka Resources, Rocla Quarry Products, Shark Bay Resources, Urban Resources, Jandakot Airport Holdings, Mineral Resources Pty Ltd,

Cliffs Pty Ltd; Nifty Copper — Birla, Wavelength Nominees. Urban Resources has purchased a covenant from Professor Dixon for some property for the protection of Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat. Conducting research for Perth to Darwin Highway Project; Member of a Project Control Group for Newmont Mining — Boddington Gold project. Member of the WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee. Federal committee member of the Alligator Rivers Research and Technical Committee (ARRTC). Commissioner of Lotteries Commission of Western Australia (Lotterywest).

- Ms Gilfedder:
 - Member of the Scientific Advisory Council established under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act*. Member of the Ecological Society of Australia Policy Working Group.
- Dr Kendal:
 - NESP Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub.
- Dr Legge:
 - *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012* contributor. BirdLife Australia Threatened Species Committee member. NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub funding recipient, Deputy Director and project leader. Paid by Australian National University, with Professor Lindenmayer as a supervisor.
- Dr Mitchell:
 - NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub funding recipient and project leader. Vice-president of the Australian Society of Herpetologists (ASH). Member of the WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee. BHP is funding a PhD student's sea turtle research in the Ningaloo World Heritage Area. Member of the IUCN Skink Specialist Group.

The Committee:

- **noted** the declarations made by members.

1.3 Notification of members' and expert advisors' relevant professional experiences since the previous meeting

- The Committee noted the following members' and expert advisors' relevant professional experiences since TSSC73 (September 2018).
- Professor Marsh:
 - had out of session conversations with Professor Patrick Baker (University of Melbourne) and Professor Barbara Evans (Chair, Victorian Scientific Advisory Committee) regarding the listing assessment of *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri* (Leadbeater's Possum)
 - had out of session conversations with the Chair of the Western Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee (Dr Andrew Burbidge) regarding the listing assessment of *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider)
 - currently completing *Dugong dugon* (Dugong) aerial surveys
 - involved in the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program and noted that the final workshop would be held on 27 November 2018.
- Dr Campbell:
 - involved in a collaborative project to bring together movement tracking information on birds and bats.
- Professor Dixon:
 - reminded the Committee that funding was available for IUCN assessment of Australian orchids and suggested that they could be assessed using an expert elicitation approach similar to the Proteaceae assessment

- published an article in The Australian regarding the establishment of the first Indigenous-run native seed farm
- published a review paper regarding the impacts of prescribed burning and agreed to circulate a copy to members.
- Ms Gilfedder:
 - attended an ecological community workshop with the Department for River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of New South Wales. Ms Gilfedder noted that the workshop was particularly useful in defining the community
 - completed fieldwork with Threatened Plants Tasmania, a volunteer group actively involved in the conservation and monitoring of Tasmania's threatened plants. Ms Gilfedder acknowledged the importance of this community group's work, as well as their professionalism and dedication.
- Professor Keith:
 - attended working group meetings for the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology and is in the drafting group for several documents
 - attended an IUCN Red List Proteaceae assessment workshop in Perth where more than 1100 species were to be assessed. Professor Keith also noted that attention was placed on inferring declines from changes to land use and that many of the species met Criterion A
 - attended a workshop with the Department for the Ridged Plains Mallee Woodland and the Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion ecological community assessments. Professor Keith advised that the workshop was aimed at resolving issues with the descriptions and noted that the Australian Ecosystem Models Framework was useful.
- Dr Kendal:
 - attended a workshop on microbiomes relating to monitoring and threats.
- Dr Legge:
 - awarded the 2018 Whitley Certificate of Commendation for Conservation Zoology for the 'Monitoring Threatened Species and Ecological Communities' book
 - invited to join the Academy of Science National Committee for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation
 - attended two Indigenous-led workshops, the first on *Pezoporus occidentalis* (Night parrot) and the second for the Indigenous Desert Alliance. Dr Legge noted the cooperation being demonstrated across groups involved in the alliance.
- Dr Mitchell:
 - Following from the Squamate IUCN assessment, has been involved in discussions about loading Western Australian assessments of other species (especially invertebrates) into the IUCN Red List Species Information System.

The Committee:

- **noted** the professional experiences and events of interest since the previous meeting reported by the members and expert advisors.

1.4 Assistant Secretary and Directors' updates

Protected Species and Communities Branch:

- Welcomed s22 as the new Secretariat for the Committee.
- Confirmed that all responsibilities from the branch were sitting with Minister Price and advised that s22, Advisor to Minister Price, would be attending the meeting on Tuesday morning.

- Advised that the budget for the branch had stabilised, that there had been some staff movement over the past few months and that the branch was hopeful to replace some, but not all staff that have moved on.
- Advised that the report for the targeted review into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (also known as the [Craik Review](#)) had been provided to Government.
- Advised that the Department attended the public hearing on 8 October 2018 for the [Senate inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)—where Senator Rice raised questions relating to the adequacy of monitoring and how the Department was meeting its Threatened Species Strategy targets.
- Advised that Senator Rice raised the listing assessment of *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri* (Leadbeater's Possum) at the recent Senate Estimates hearing. The Chair noted that this species would be discussed later in the agenda.
- Noted that the Australian Labor Party's National Platform had been released and that it proposed the creation of an independent Environmental Protection Authority and a National Sustainability Commission.
- Confirmed that the Department was aiming to have the Committee's appointment process finalised before Christmas and thanked members for their patience.

Species Policy and Information Section:

- Welcomed **S22** as the new Secretariat for the Committee and advised that all support positions for the Committee had now been filled.
- Advised that the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) – Threatened Species Scientific Committee protocol remains with the IAC members for comment.
- Advised that the Department received a Freedom of Information request to obtain documents from the 2018 Finalised Priority Assessment List (FPAL) process, including the minutes from TSSC72 (June 2018), the 2018 Proposed Priority Assessment List (PPAL) and the briefing to the Minister. Members noted that the response was being finalised and that the Department would provide a copy of the documents to members after they had been released.
- Advised that the Committee's recommended theme for the 2019 call for nominations had been provided to the Minister, with a decision requested by 30 November 2018.
- Advised that processing of the frog listing brief from TSSC72 (June 2018) had been paused pending resolution of some late comments received by Queensland and flagged that some additional advice from Dr Mitchell may be required.
- Advised that the brief with eight mammals, two plants and extensions for 12 species from TSSC73 (September 2018) had been provided to Minister Price on 30 September 2018, with a decision due by 6 February 2019.
- Advised that the revised brief on *Pteropus conspicillatus* (Spectacled Flying-fox) had been provided to Minister Price, with a decision due by 7 January 2019. Members noted that the Department was in discussion with the Queensland Government to have the species uplisted in Queensland using the EPBC Act assessment through the Common Assessment Method (CAM). This may require some updates to the references in the Conservation Advice in early 2019.
- Advised that work on Conservation Advices for species with sunseting recovery plans was underway, but staff changes had limited progress and that this may impact the working groups planned for TSSC75 (February 2019).
- Advised that Professor Richard Kingsford and Professor Brendan Wintle (Australian Research Council researchers) had assembled a compelling case for the assessment of *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* (Platypus) for listing as a nationally threatened species. Members noted that their work was being published and that it would be considered in the context of the 2019 call for nominations.

- Advised that the Lord Howe Island Board had agreed to proceed with the rodent baiting program in winter 2019 (based on this [board paper](#)) and were seeking access to bait every property on the island to make sure the program was successful.

Ecological Communities Section:

- Advised that there were three ecological community decision briefs with Minister Price for decision:
 - Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by Black Gum or Brooker's Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*)—which was now overdue (due 3 November 2018)
 - Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains—due on 30 November 2018
 - Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain—due on 5 December 2018. It was noted that there were also three extensions to Committee assessment deadlines requested in this brief.
- Advised that the Department was discussing proposed nominations for the next PPAL with nominators and was expecting nominations for:
 - Sedge-rich *Eucalyptus camphora* Swamp ecological community in Victoria, which was previously considered by the Committee in 2006, but at that time was not prioritised for assessment
 - a more closely defined subset of the woodland birds ecological community, focussing on the eastern sheep and wheat belt.
- Advised that there had been good progress on the assessment of the River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of New South Wales, noting that help was needed to clarify the national extent of this ecological community and that fieldwork in northern New South Wales was to be undertaken. Members noted how depleted this ecological community was and that the coastal floodplain case study from the Australian Ecosystem Models Framework may provide helpful information.

Terrestrial Threatened Species Section:

- Advised that the Eucalypt workshop—as part of the NESP project to develop a National Action Plan for Australian Eucalypts—would be held on 30 November 2018. Members noted that invitees were to include Professor Keith, as well as CAM and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) experts.
- Advised that the BGCI were looking at future priority groups of trees for assessment.
- Advised that the development of recovery plans for Threatened Species Strategy priority species was progressing and that several legacy recovery plans were ready for the Committee's consideration.
- Advised that the Department had spoken to several new recovery teams and encouraged them to be included on the Department's National Register of Recovery Teams.
- Confirmed that the if background material in a recovery plan was updated, that there was no need for further public consultation, but that if the aims, objectives or actions were changed, further public consultation could be required.
- Noted information from Dr Legge that there is increasing interest in recovery planning for *Egernia kintorei* (Great Desert Skink) and *Pezoporus occidentalis* (Night Parrot) being led by Indigenous land managers.

Marine and Freshwater Species Section:

- Advised that the Minister made the decision to list the Assemblages of Species Associated with Open-coast Salt-wedge Estuaries of Western and Central Victoria ecological community in the Endangered category.
- Advised that CSIRO had published an east coast population estimate of *Carcharias taurus* (Grey Nurse Shark). Members noted that two scenarios were used to model the population and that both showed encouraging growth rates per year (3.4% and 4.5%), given the species' lifecycle.

- Advised that the Department would be attending a meeting for signatories to the Convention on Migratory Species Sharks Memorandum of Understanding on 10–14 December 2018 and that Professor Simpfendorfer would be attending as part of the IUCN delegation.
- Advised that the Department was engaging with key researchers regarding the assessment for *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion).
- Noted discussions were continuing about Conservation Dependent listings being adopted by other jurisdictions under the CAM.

Migratory Species Section:

- Advised that the Department attended a Dark Sky conference to discuss the impacts of artificial light and the light pollution guidelines being prepared by the Department. A draft was anticipated to be completed by the end of the year and then targeted consultation would commence. Members discussed the suggestion of assessing artificial light for listing as a Key Threatening Process (KTP) and highlighted the difficulty in untangling the effects of artificial light pollution from other adjacent factors, such as roads.
- Advised that the Department would be attending bilateral migratory bird meetings with China (CAMBA), Japan (JAMBA) and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA) in Japan in November 2018 and a meeting of partners for the East Asian–Australasian Migratory Waterbird Flyway Partnership, in China in December 2018.

Environmental Biosecurity Section:

- Advised that the Lord Howe Island Board provided a formal declaration of eradication of the Big-headed Ant (*Pheidole megacephala*).
- Advised that the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) for dieback caused by the root-rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* had been provided to Minister Price, with a decision requested by 22 November 2018. Dr Kendal noted that he attended a conference in New Zealand which discussed the different species of *Phytophthora*.
- Advised that the Department met with Dr Michael Robinson (Plant Biosecurity CRC) and Mr Bob Makinson and agreed to finalise the Action Plan for Myrtle Rust. Members noted the lack of Indigenous consultation on the action plan. Members also noted that the working group reviewing the impacts to Myrtle Rust could evolve into an implementation group for the action plan.
- Advised that there is a [Senate inquiry into the impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#) and that the first public hearing was on 22 November 2018 in Melbourne. Members expressed interest in providing a submission or making a public statement.
- Advised that a call for expressions of interest to commercialise the Curiosity® cat bait went out last week.
- Advised that the Department attended the Kosciuszko Feral Horse Science Conference.
- Advised that the Department was reviewing the TAP to reduce the impacts on northern Australia's biodiversity by five listed grasses.
- Noted that resources were being assigned to work on the Fire KTP and that a threats prioritisation framework was being developed regarding the TAP for Novel Biota. While there is a need to mobilise resources on joint plans regarding pest animal strategies, for example rabbits, there are questions around the statutory implications of this approach.
- Noted that the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) was in the process of developing a prioritisation framework to assist with establishing threats as well as surveillance, and that members advocated for making joint plans to optimise the use of resources.

The Committee:

- **noted** the updates provided by staff on work being undertaken by the Department.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Draft minutes of TSSC73 (September 2018)

- Members noted that the preferred approach for amending content within the minutes was to include a clarifying footnote and that this approach was taken in section 1.4 to clarify a species.
- Members noted that Dr Legge had sent through additional editorial comments.

The Committee:

- **agreed**, subject to all amendments being incorporated, that the minutes were an accurate record of TSSC73 (September 2018) (Moved: Dr Mitchell, Seconded: Dr Kendal).

2.2 Actions arising from previous meetings

- Members noted the actions completed since the last meeting and those that would be discussed later in the agenda.
- Members requested correspondence to be prioritised and expedited, as well as requesting that the actions arising table to be reviewed and updated for the next meeting.

The Committee:

- **noted** the actions arising as detailed in [Item 2.2](#)
- **agreed** that the actions arising table would be cleaned up
- **requested** that correspondence be prioritised and expedited.

3. WORK PLANS

3.1 Progress report

- Members noted progress in the work plans since TSSC73 (September 18).
- Members noted the decision by Minister Price to:
 - amend the list of threatened ecological communities to include Assemblages of Species Associated with Open-coast Salt-wedge Estuaries of Western and Central Victoria in the Endangered category
 - approve the advice from the Committee as the Approved Conservation Advice for the ecological community
 - agree to the Committee's recommendation to not have a recovery plan.
- Members noted that the 2012 FPAL for ecological communities was now completed, following Minister Price's decision on the Salt-wedge ecological community.
- Members noted that the work plan had been updated to reflect that the Committee had completed their assessment of a number of items and that there were now 86 species under assessment and 11 ecological communities.

3.2 Statutory items

- Members agreed with the proposal to revise the structure of the statutory work plan ([Item 3.2](#)) to more succinctly present the information regarding recovery plans.
- Members discussed the need to streamline and progress assessments, particularly for ecological communities, and identified this as a topic for further discussion at the strategic workshop planned for next year.
- The Department noted the number and increasing complexity of assessments being led by the Commonwealth through the CAM, as well as the temporary re-prioritisation of resources within the Protected Species and Communities Branch to assist with assessment of tenders for Regional Land Partnerships funding.
- Members suggested that the Department work with Ms Gilfedder and Professor Keith explore whether a SEAP process could be applied to ecological communities through partnerships with

the scientific community and the Western Australian Government. It was noted that the partnership with CSIRO was a good example.

The Committee:

- **noted** decisions by the Minister since TSSC73 (September 2018)
- **noted** the progress in the work plan since TSSC73 (September 2018)
- **agreed** with the proposal to revise [Item 3.2](#)
- **noted** the challenges associated with, and the importance of, timely progress on ecological community listings and suggested the Department explore whether a SEAP process could be applied to ecological communities through partnerships with the scientific community and the Western Australian Government.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Correspondence since TSSC73

- Members noted correspondence with the Minister as summarised in [Item 4.1](#).
- Members noted the incoming and outgoing correspondence as part of the dispute resolution process for the assessments of *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider), *Myoporum turbinatum* (Salt Myoporum) and *Petrogale concinna concinna* (Nabarlek (Victoria River District)).
- Members noted that the Queensland Species Technical Committee were seeking the Committee's endorsement of their assessments for two endemic Queensland species (*Cajanus mareebensis* and *Petaurus australis*).
- Members noted that GBRMPA would like to work with the Committee to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the management of *Sphyrna lewini* (Scalloped Hammerhead Shark) at TSSC75 (February 2019).

The Committee:

- **noted** the letters from the Minister
- **noted** other incoming letters and state committee advices
- **noted** the outgoing correspondence.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Future meetings

- Members noted that the Department was seeking formal agreement on dates for TSSC78 (November 2019).
- Members noted the proposal to include another table in [Item 5.1](#) which outlines agreed and proposed dates for other workshops where a Committee member may be asked by the Department to attend.
- The Chair advised that she may have scheduling conflicts with TSSC79 and TSSC83, as these meetings coincide with the Australian Academy of Science elections. The Chair also noted that the Leadbeater's Possum research priorities workshop should occur earlier than later in 2019.

The Committee:

- **agreed** that TSSC78 will be held on 18–19 November 2019, with no informal day or workshop.

5.2 Advice on payments to members and the budgetary outlook

- The Department advised that the Committee was on budget in 2018/2019, with funds allocated for facilitation at the strategic workshops proposed in 2019.

The Committee:

- **noted** the budget for 2018-2019

6. STRATEGIC ISSUES/POLICY ITEMS

6.1 Discussion with the Threatened Species Commissioner

- The Commissioner, Dr Sally Box, provided an update on recent activities.
- Members noted that staff of the Commissioner's Office attended the launch of the consultation phase for the draft Action Plan for Myrtle Rust and provided a presentation. The Commissioner advised that the Australian Plant Biosecurity Foundation had taken carriage of the draft Action Plan and that the Department was able to mobilise funding for projects out of the Threatened Species Recovery Fund on priority projects which focus on *Gossia fragrantissima* (Sweet Myrtle) and *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae* (Red Lilly Pilly).
- Members noted that the Threatened Species Recovery Fund was now fully expended and that Minister Price had approved the last three strategic projects for Myrtle Rust, *Neophema chrysogaster* (Orange-bellied Parrot) recovery, and habitat protection for *Macrotis lagotis* (Bilby) and *Pezoporus occidentalis* (Night Parrot) in the Kimberley.
- Members noted that the Regional Land Partnerships component of the National Landcare Program would invest \$450 million over five years to deliver on six outcomes. It was noted that the outcomes relate to Ramsar sites, species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy and EPBC Act, World Heritage properties, EPBC Act listed threatened ecological communities, the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation, as well as the adaptiveness of agricultural systems.
- The Commissioner advised that her Office and the Protected Species and Communities Branch were extensively involved in assessing applications for the Regional Land Partnerships and providing strategic oversight. Members noted that a third of the funding was earmarked for threatened species and ecological communities. The Commissioner advised that the quality of submissions was overall very high, that there were a number of exciting projects that would contribute to the objectives of the Threatened Species Strategy.
- Members noted that the Commissioner attended the Indigenous Desert Alliance Forum on 6-8 November 2018.
 - The Commissioner advised that it provided a valuable forum for different regions to provide an update on progress following the Bilby Blitz and share information about distribution across landscapes, including that 11 groups had found Bilby scats, tracks and burrows. Members noted that 48 new sites showed signs of Bilbies.
 - The Commissioner advised that there had been a positive recovery team meeting for both the Bilby and Night Parrot at the forum and that the Department received positive feedback regarding its Indigenous engagement strategy for the Bilby. Members suggested that work on *Egernia kintorei* (Great Desert Skink) also be progressed because of the maturity of engagement with Indigenous groups and the amount of available information.
 - Members discussed the model of engagement proposed at the forum—where a biodiversity working group would be created in different regions (for example, Kimberley, Central Deserts) and representatives from biodiversity working groups would participate in species recovery teams. Members noted that this model was preferred to having an Indigenous sub-committee of a recovery team and acknowledged the important role that Indigenous groups play in species recovery. Members discussed the importance of not only creating jobs in remote communities but also funding operating costs for projects.
 - Members noted that Dr Legge, as well as Ms Cecilia (Cissy) Gore-Birch and Dr Stephen van Leeuwen from the IAC, attended the forum. The Commissioner advised that she would talk to the IAC about the outcomes of the IDA forum, the proposed recovery team engagement model and the Year Three Report at the next available opportunity.
- The Commissioner advised that, following publication of the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub's analysis of the most imperilled bird and mammal species, the Department was working with the states and territories to identify gaps in conservation action for most imperilled

species that aren't included in the Threatened Species Strategy. Members noted that the Commissioner may provide a report on this at the next meeting.

- The Commissioner updated the Committee on progress on island conservation initiatives. Members noted that:
 - the [Western Australian Government announced](#) that Dirk Hartog Island is free of feral cats and that ten native mammal species and one bird species that were known to exist on the island, as well as two additional species of hare wallabies, would be released on the island over the next decade.
 - the eradication of feral cats was well underway on Christmas Island and that a review had been completed to inform future actions, which identified the need to undertake baiting over the wet season.
 - efforts to eradicate feral cats on Kangaroo Island continued to be supported through the National Landcare Program and that the next step was to construct an exclusion fence across Dudley Peninsula to break up the island into smaller management zones
 - baseline data were collected for feasibility assessments on Bruny Island which found that it was worthwhile to eradicate feral cats from the island and that investment over a longer timeframe was needed. The Commissioner advised that the data had also found that seabird colonies were acting as a sink for feral cats and members noted that management would be focussed in these areas.
 - a conference was held on French Island to outline the recent changes to the Victorian legislation that enables feral cat control. The Commissioner advised that Zoos Victoria would like to release *Perameles gunnii* (Eastern Barred Bandicoots) on the island next year.
 - Members asked if there was any discussion about including other islands in the feral cat eradication program, including Islands in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Members noted that the Department had also been promoting responsible cat ownership on the Tiwi Islands and West Island (Pellews).
- Members noted further opportunities for cooperation between the Committee and the Commissioner and invited the Commissioner to participate in the strategic workshop for regional recovery planning planned for the next meeting (TSSC75).

The Committee:

- **noted** the Commissioner's recent activities and opportunities for cooperation
- **invited** the Commissioner to attend the workshop on regional recovery planning in February 2019.

6.2 Reporting on the three year strategy targets for priority birds and mammals and implications for monitoring of threatened species

- The Commissioner provided an overview of the year three and five targets for feral cats, mammals, birds, plants and recovery practices. Members noted that the year three reporting process was underway and that Minister Price would be provided with the report in late January or early February 2019.
- The Commissioner advised that the feral cat survey conducted by RMIT yielded responses from more than 3000 organisations and over 4000 individuals, an increase from the last survey. Members noted that information on cat management activities was received from Parks Australia and the Department of Defence.
- Members noted that the Department had contracted NESP researchers to assist with analysing and reporting the data on the improved trajectory targets for priority birds and mammals, and a subset of seven priority plants. The Commissioner acknowledged the contributions of Dr Legge, Professor Stephen Garnett, Professor John Woinarski and Ms Hayley Geyle (Charles Darwin University) to the work.
- The Commissioner provided a draft species scorecard for the Bilby. Members discussed the structure and type of information provided within the scorecard and noted that the species

trajectory would be reviewed by experts in a separate process and that the aim of the scorecard was to show trends, including those based on any recent monitoring activity. Members suggested that the summary table in the scorecard would only require a few adjustments to be very similar to the IUCN approach for “Green Listing” species.

- Members commended the Commissioner for taking a robust scientific and engagement approach and acknowledged that the scorecard could be a valuable communication tool to assist with decisions about where to focus efforts as it provided good baseline data. Members raised the importance of making the scorecard accessible to multiple audiences and noted that different versions could be drafted for different purposes.
- Members discussed whether the costing information within the scorecard could be made more comprehensive and noted that the current information was based on what was able to be obtained from collaborators. Members suggested that recovery teams could provide annual updates to the scorecards, which could help inform the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub monitoring project.
- Members noted that the Department received the results on the seed banking target and would be writing that up shortly.
- The Commissioner discussed the overall model of the Threatened Species Strategy and outlined that the Department would be reviewing lessons learnt to inform any future iterations of the Strategy, including whether there was value in focussing effort on additional taxa or considering multiple species across broader landscapes.
- Members asked whether the Commissioner had considered an award or program to recognise the efforts of community groups, citing the commitment and contribution of Threatened Plants Tasmania and Indigenous ranger groups as examples.

The Committee:

- **thanked** the Commissioner and her team for the information and updates provided
- **noted** that there is a challenge to tailoring the report to a range of audiences
- **requested** the Department seek advice from the IAC on options for recognising the contribution of Indigenous groups to species recovery
- **suggested** that the Commissioner consider options to recognise community groups who are involved in threatened species recovery
- **acknowledged** the partnership between the Department and the Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

6.3 Improving monitoring design in Conservation Advices

- Members noted that substantial work had been completed on standards for monitoring and discussed whether it was useful to have an agreed reference document that outlines the features of a good monitoring program.
- Members agreed that a succinct document could provide useful guidance for those drafting species conservation advices, especially in relation to prompting the drafter to consider the appropriate spatial scale and coordination arrangements for monitoring.
- Dr Legge agreed to prepare a first draft for the Committee’s consideration.

The Committee:

- **agreed** that a succinct document outlining good monitoring practices in relation to the assessment of threatened species be developed and **thanked** Dr Sarah Legge for agreeing to prepare the first draft for consideration at a future meeting.

6.4 Governance arrangements for taxonomy

- Members welcomed **s22** to the meeting.
- **s22** outlined the role of the Department’s Biodiversity Science Section, including curating, managing and delivering the Australian Biological Resources Study, BushBlitz and the National Seed Bank Partnership.

- s22 advised that the Australian Biological Resources Study provides taxonomic advice to Departmental officers. Members acknowledged that taxonomy is a dynamic and evolving science and the importance of working to meet the practical needs of end users, through collaborating with cultural, scientific and IT systems experts. The Australian Plant Name Index (APNI) and Australian Plant Census (APC) were provided as examples of collaborative partnerships with good governance.
- Members noted and discussed the unresolved taxonomy of the dingo—which is currently considered to not be sufficiently different from a domestic dog to warrant being considered a separate species. Members noted that the behaviours of dingoes and dogs were quite different and that there are differences between taxonomy and physiology. Members acknowledged the importance of the common usage and acceptance of species names, and that the dingo would be publicly celebrated as its own species.
- Members raised that there had been a number of taxonomic changes to Australian plants recently and it was noted that there were some challenging species, such as orchids. It was also noted that the rationale behind taxonomic changes needed to be communicated to the public in order to encourage the acceptance and common usage of new names, especially for well-known plants such as Banksia species.
- s22 outlined the process for publishing plant data through the National Species List and advised that work was being done to include Australian fauna on the list, noting that the museum community started digitising their list later than the herbarium community. Members noted that APNI and APC have different numbers of plant records because APNI includes every name that has ever been published for a species concept, while the APC presents the currently accepted names and taxonomy for Australia (drawn from the APNI lists of published names for each taxon concept).
- Members noted that the states and territories have their own taxonomy but work was being done to develop nationally agreed taxonomy to address that a species may have multiple alternate names in different areas. Members noted that the CAM memorandum established the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria and the Australian Faunal Directory as the authorities for taxonomy of threatened flora and fauna respectively.
- Members noted the problems associated with publishing information which had not been peer reviewed, but meets the international taxonomic code.
- s22 agreed to send Ms Gilfedder information on taxonomy that could be shared with the Tasmanian Threatened Species Scientific Committee.
- Members thanked s22 for the comprehensive and useful briefing.

The Committee:

- **noted** the information provided.

6.5 Potential amendments to the threats table in the Conservation Advice template

- The Department proposed having a comprehensive discussion on potential amendments to the threats table in the Conservation Advice template at TSSC75 (February 2019) and suggested that relevant areas within the Department, as well as external experts, be invited to participate in the discussion.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to defer changing the Conservation Advice template until TSSC75 (February 2019)
- **agreed** to invite the Environment Standards Division, Environmental Biosecurity Section and other relevant areas/experts, for example, Stephen Kearney (University of Queensland), Josie Carwardine (CSIRO) and James Watson (Wildlife Conservation Society) to TSSC75 to discuss improvements.

6.6 Implementation of the Common Assessment Method (CAM)

- Members noted that several jurisdictions had completed, or are progressing, relevant legislative amendments to support the CAM. Members noted that the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems criteria

were being written into the Western Australian regulations, which could enable WA to opt into CAM assessments of ecological communities in future.

- Members noted that Victoria had recently developed standard words for assessments of particular types of species and that the Department had offered to share the Committee's standard wording used in Conservation Advices.
- The Department advised that the dispute resolution process continued for two Western Australian endemic species—*Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider) and *Myoporum turbinatum* (Salt Myoporum)—and that both committees were cooperating in the process.
- Members agreed that it was important to focus on resolving whether the species should be considered 'severely fragmented' and provided feedback on appropriate experts to participate in the expert panel. Members asked that the expert panel confer and provide a consolidated response.
- Members noted that the Salt Myoporum assessment was out for public and expert comment until 18 December 2018.
- Members also noted that the CAM working group has progressed policy papers to assist in consistent interpretation of the IUCN guidelines and suggested that this work include recording a clear justification of key IUCN attributes in each assessment.
- Members agreed to the suggestion that Departmental and Committee comments on state and territory assessments be consolidated into a single set of feedback to the relevant jurisdiction. Members asked that Departmental comments be provided as tracked changes for the Committee to review and add further feedback.
- Members discussed the Conservation Dependent listing category, noting that the CAM memorandum uses the EPBC Act definition for listing of commercially harvested fish.

The Committee:

- **noted** the progress of the CAM, particularly in policy and governance arrangements
- **noted** the concerns of Committee members regarding the use of the Conservation Dependent listing, as expressed in the Committee's submission to the Senate inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis.

6.7 Stakeholder engagement standard wording for Conservation Advices

- Members noted that communities and stakeholders are diverse and that distinct groups should be identified and engaged with separately based on their practices, interests and location. Members agreed that any engagement process should be inclusive and seek to identify and invite participation from all relevant groups.
- Members discussed how community and stakeholder engagement can lead to conservation management actions, monitoring activities and research priorities in Conservation Advices. Members noted that different community and stakeholder groups require different modes of communication for effective engagement.
- Members discussed three common community/stakeholder engagement scenarios:
 - a species/ecological community is being threatened by the stakeholder community
 - conservation activities are likely to affect the stakeholder community negatively
 - species/ecological community recovery could benefit from stakeholder community involvement.
- Members discussed the proposed approach to standard wording and proposed including an explicit engagement section in Conservation Advices with a checklist of questions to prompt the drafter. Members agreed that a checklist would be helpful to identify linkages and to provide guidance on how engagement should be structured.

The Committee:

- **thanked** Dr Kendal for his paper and contribution to their thinking on this matter

- **agreed** that Conservation Advices should include a stakeholder/community engagement section and a checklist that includes the typology and set of headings from the discussion paper added to the template to guide completion of the section
- **requested** that the new approach to stakeholder engagement be trialed on a selection of Conservation Advices for consideration at TSSC75 for review
- **agreed**, once the trial has been completed, to seek comments from the IAC.

6.8 Discussion with s22, Advisor to Minister Price

- Members welcomed s22 to the meeting.
- Members provided background information on three listing decisions which were with Minister Price for decision, with decision timeframes having been extended by the former minister:
 - Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains
 - Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by Black Gum or Brooker's Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*)
 - *Pteropus conspicillatus* (Spectacled Flying-fox).
- Members discussed the employment opportunities that biodiversity can provide and the importance of Indigenous natural resource management.
- Members explained the increased emphasis on engaging community/stakeholder groups in more diverse ways, and opportunities to raise awareness of threats and promote the positive work being undertaken by different groups to enhance conservation outcomes.
- Members outlined how the Committee had recently engaged more strategically and broadly with the scientific community and the IUCN to draw on expertise relating to birds, mammals and squamates. As a result, the Shark Action Plan would soon be finalised. The Action Plan had identified several species requiring assessment.
- Members highlighted the significant reforms through the CAM.
- Members discussed how improvements in technology had improved monitoring outcomes in recent years. Members noted the importance of citizen science data and the need to manage the data appropriately.
- s22 thanked the Committee for the information and acknowledged the variety of work the Committee contributes to across the Department.

The Committee:

- **thanked** s22 for attending the meeting.

6.9 History of regional recovery planning

- The Department provided background information on regional recovery planning approaches and key lessons learnt to date. The Department referred to two Committee papers from 2001 and 2002 which articulated a framework for the development of a strategic approach to recovery and threat abatement planning and formed the basis for Government investment in a set of pilot regional recovery plans, which were delivered up until 2010.
- Members noted that, in consultation with the states, a number of regions were defined and targeted to represent a range of environments across Australia, as well as multiple entities across varying spatial scales.
- The Department outlined that there were significant learnings from the process, including that plans integrated well with other planning mechanisms, that the use of analytical tools was important for prioritising multiple management actions across the landscape, and that in the beginning there was confusion around the scale and conceptual level of the plans.
- Members discussed the importance of determining an appropriate spatial scale, which was not only relevant ecologically, but for people and communities too. Members noted that when the scale is too big, actions are pitched at a more strategic level, which makes it harder for

community groups to identify on-ground work they can undertake. Members raised whether a decision support tool could be created to help identify the appropriate scale.

- The Department advised that the EPBC Act has the flexibility to make a regional plan, but that there are constraints whereby the Minister must adopt or make the plan for each species and ecological community (e.g. if there are 50 species covered in a plan, the Minister must make a decision for each). Part-range issues were also discussed and members noted that the Minister is unable to make a regional plan if the defined region only covers part of the species range.
- Members discussed the continued use of, and demand for, regional recovery plans. Members suggested that a future iteration of the Threatened Species Strategy could identify areas where regional recovery planning might be appropriate and that islands may be a good place to start because of their clear boundaries.
- Members highlighted there were large benefits to be gained, but that continued substantial investment was required to ensure actions are completed. Members suggested that a national long term funding plan would be useful to assist on-ground groups with their own planning and allocation of resources.
- The Department advised that the list of threatened ecological communities had been further developed since the introduction of regional recovery plans, and that it was important to consider planning in the context of Regional Land Partnerships.
- Members suggested discussing the next steps for regional recovery plans at the strategic workshop in February 2019 (TSSC75). Topics of discussion were to include lessons learnt, how to define scale, engagement with the states, and choosing trial areas.

The Committee:

- **noted** the history of regional recovery planning
- **thanked** §22 for the paper
- **requested** a summary paper about the key lessons learnt
- **discussed** the challenges in building a regional recovery planning model and how planning processes to date might inform discussion at the Committee's proposed recovery planning workshop
- **agreed** to establish a working group, consisting of committee members (Ms Gilfedder, Professor Simpfendorfer, Professor Marsh, Dr Kendal and Dr Legge) and Departmental officers (§22, §22, Threatened Species Commissioner and other relevant areas from the Biodiversity Conservation Division), to develop the terms of reference and planning for the TSSC75 workshop, where an approach to identifying regions would be developed
- **requested** advice from the Department about the planning and arrangements for the workshop as soon as possible.

6.10 Extensions to species assessment timeframes

- The Department noted that this paper was similar to previous extension papers that had been considered by the Committee. Members noted that eight of the extensions were being requested due to resourcing constraints within the Department, while one extension for *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion) was being requested to enable further analysis proposed by the IUCN.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to request that the Minister extend the assessment completion timeframes for eight species due to capacity issues:
 - *Miniopterus orianae bassanii* (Southern Bent-wing Bat), *Pseudomys fumeus* (Smokey Mouse), *Pseudomys oralis* (Hastings River Mouse), *Petrogale lateralis* West Kimberley Race (Black-footed Rock-wallaby) until 30 September 2019
 - *Trichosurus vulpecula arhemensis* (Northern Brushtail Possum) and *Potorous longipes* (Long-footed Potoroo) until 30 March 2020
 - *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* (Border Ranges Lined Fern) and *Uperoleia mahonyi* (Mahony's Toadlet) until 30 September 2020.
- **agreed** to request that the Minister extend the assessment completion timeframe for *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion) until 30 September 2019 to enable the analysis proposed by the IUCN.

6.11 Transition from GovDex to GovTEAMS

- The Department advised that the electronic documents for the Committee would be made available to members through a new tool called GovTEAMS, which would replace Govdex from TSSC75 (February 2019) onwards. The Department provided an introduction to registering, logging in and downloading papers in GovTEAMS.
- Members requested that the agenda be included with each set of meeting papers for easy reference. It was also suggested that an index be developed that has meeting items embedded.
- The Department advised that members would be asked to register for GovTEAMS in January 2019 and that technical support would be provided in writing and over the phone if required. Members noted that written instructions on how to access and download papers would also be sent and that documents from previous meetings would be transferred from Govdex to GovTEAMS for future reference.

The Committee:

- **noted** that the Committee will use a different document sharing website (GovTEAMS) from TSSC75 (February 2019).

7. SPECIES

Consultation

7.1 Common Assessment Method – New state/territory-led species assessments

- The Department outlined the listing assessments of five species prepared by states and territories using the CAM.
- Members noted that the assessment completion date for *Cajanus mareebensis* was 30 September 2019 and for *Petaurus australis* (Wet Tropics subspecies) was 30 March 2019. Members also noted incoming correspondence from the Queensland Species Technical Committee, who advised that they had arrived at the same recommendations (downlisting *Cajanus mareebensis* to Least Concern and uplisting *Petaurus australis* to Endangered) and now wished to seek the Committee's endorsement of these assessments.
- Members noted that the downlisting of *Cajanus mareebensis* was unlikely to affect its long term survival.
- Members noted that there were three New South Wales-led assessments that were simultaneously being considered for listing in the relevant jurisdictions and that each of these was compliant with the CAM. The Department advised that New South Wales had released their preliminary assessments for public consultation and that if the assessments were amended they would be presented to the Committee.
- Members discussed the assessments and suggested that further explanation would be useful for the species distribution and history for *Hippocampus whitei*, that the survey method for *Cajanus mareebensis* needed some justification, and that the Area of Occupancy for *Galaxias tantangara* needed to reflect concerns regarding the evidence of its original distribution.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to add two New South Wales species (*Galaxias tantangara* and *Zieria odorifera* subsp. *warrabahensis*) and one cross-jurisdictional species (*Hippocampus whitei*) to the 2018 FPAL with an assessment completion time of 12 months after the lead jurisdiction provides updated assessments incorporating any feedback from the Committee
- **agreed** to write to the Minister out-of-session advising that these three species have been added to the 2018 FPAL
- **agreed** to release the assessments of these three species and two Queensland species on the 2017 FPAL—*Petaurus australis* Wet Tropics subspecies and *Cajanus mareebensis*—for public consultation using the questions at [Item 7.1.3](#)
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister the following listing decisions for all five species (Item 7.1.1), if no comments are received:
 - *Galaxias tantangara* and *Zieria odorifera* subsp. *warrabahensis* for listing as Critically Endangered

- *Hippocampus whitei* for listing as Endangered, subject to the Committee's feedback being incorporated and further consultation with the states
 - *Petaurus australis* Wet Tropics subspecies for up-listing from Vulnerable to Endangered
 - *Cajanus mareebensis* for delisting, subject to the Committee's feedback being incorporated and further consultation with the states
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that a recovery plan is not recommended for the four species proposed for listing or transfer (*Galaxias tantangara*, *Hippocampus whitei*, *Petaurus australis* Wet Tropics subspecies and *Zieria odorifera* subsp. *warrabahensis*) because the required conservation actions can be adequately described in the conservation advices.

S47C

Final

7.3 Common Assessment Method – Final endemic legacy species assessments

- The Department outlined the listing assessments for 11 species prepared by New South Wales and Western Australia using the CAM.
- Members noted that no comments were received for any of the 11 species during the consultation period.
- Members noted that there were no significant changes to the New South Wales Threatened Species Scientific Committee's determination on *Homoranthus bebo*.
- Members raised whether further consultation was required for *Androcalva adenothalia* and noted that Western Australia currently has an interim recovery plan for this species which is expiring in the near future and they do not have capacity to prepare a new one. Members discussed whether there is a need to have an EPBC Act recovery plan for state and territory endemic species where the state or territory already has one in place and concluded that a recovery plan was not required in such circumstances.
- Members discussed the assessments and advised that they had no editorial or substantive comments.
- Members noted that *Stylidium coroniforme* (Wongan Hills Triggerplant)—which the Committee agreed to recommend for de-listing at TSSC70 (November 2017)—would be included in the briefing package to the Minister along with the three *Stylidium* species being considered under this item.

- Members thanked s22 for her leadership on the CAM and noted she would be on maternity leave in 2019.

The Committee:

- **noted** that no comments were received during the consultation period for these 11 species
- **agreed** to provide the assessments for the 11 species, prepared by New South Wales and Western Australia using the CAM, to the Minister as the Committee's written assessment
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister the following listing decisions for these 11 species:
 - *Androcalva adenothis*, *Homoranthus bebo* and *Stylidium amabile* for listing in the Critically Endangered category
 - *Androcalva perlaria*, *Caladenia granitica*, *Grevillea acropogon*, *Hypocalymma* sp. Cascade (R. Bruhn 20896), *Hypocalymma angustifolium* subsp. Hutt River (S. Patrick 2982), *Stylidium coroniforme* subsp. *amblyphyllum* and *Stylidium coroniforme* subsp. *coroniforme* for listing in the Endangered category
 - *Fontainea oraria* for up-listing from the Endangered category to the Critically Endangered category.
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that a recovery plan is not recommended for the 11 species (*Androcalva adenothis*, *Androcalva perlaria*, *Caladenia granitica*, *Fontainea oraria*, *Grevillea acropogon*, *Homoranthus bebo*, *Hypocalymma* sp. Cascade (R. Bruhn 20896), *Hypocalymma angustifolium* subsp. Hutt River (S. Patrick 2982), *Stylidium amabile*, *Stylidium coroniforme* subsp. *amblyphyllum* and *Stylidium coroniforme* subsp. *coroniforme*) because the required conservation actions are adequately described in the conservation advices.
- **thanked** s22 for her contribution.

7.4 Conservation Advice for *Fregata andrewsi* (Christmas Island Frigatebird)

- The Department outlined the Conservation Advice for *Fregata andrewsi* (Christmas Island Frigatebird).
- Members noted that the Department had undertaken consultation using the process agreed at TSSC69 (Sep 2017, Item 7.3). Two workshops were held in Canberra in March 2018—one hosted by the NESP Threatened Species Hub to consider the conservation management, monitoring and research priorities—and the other by the Department to consider the threats and risk matrix for all listed threatened bird species that occur on Christmas Island.
- Members noted that the Department had incorporated the workshops participants' comments into the Conservation Advice, as well as comments from relevant staff in Parks Australia and the Environment Standards Division in the Department.
- Members discussed the draft Conservation Advice and noted that it was well structured and the format could be used more widely. Members provided editorial comments and suggested that stronger language could be used in the actions; restoration should be included as a possible action if relevant; targets or criteria for measures of success be included; colours used in the threats table be explained; text be included to explain how important threats are prior to management; and recommendations be clarified.
- Members noted that the Conservation Advice did not need to go out for public consultation and could be approved by the Minister or her delegate.

The Committee:

- **noted** a previous decision (TSSC68, Item 7.4) to adopt a template that will be used for Conservation Advice for all listed threatened species occurring on Christmas Island
- **noted** a previous decision (TSSC69, Item 7.3) to endorse a process to update Conservation Advice for all listed threatened species on Christmas Island
- **noted** the development of the Conservation Advice for *Fregata andrewsi* (Christmas Island Frigatebird) is consistent with the agreed template and process
- **agreed** to recommend the Conservation Advice for *Fregata andrewsi* (Christmas Island Frigatebird) to the Minister or Minister's delegate for approval, after it has been amended in accordance with the Committee's suggestions.

7.5 Conservation Advices for ten Threatened Species Strategy priority plants

- The Department outlined the Conservation Advices for the final ten Threatened Species Strategy priority plants and thanked departmental officers and relevant states and territories who had contributed to the Conservation Advices.
- Members discussed the Conservation Advices and provided editorial and substantive comments. Members suggested that the layout, style and order of the information be revised to increase consistency across the advices.
- Members agreed to establish a working group to review suggested amendments to the Conservation Advices out-of-session, with Ms Gilfedder as Chair.
- Members noted that the Conservation Advices were similar in content to recovery plans.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to finalise the Conservation Advices for the ten Threatened Species Strategy priority plants (identified below and at [Items 7.5.1–7.5.10](#)), subject to the Committee’s comments being incorporated and an out-of-session working group (consisting of Ms Gilfedder, Professor Dixon and Professor Keith) who will provide a recommendation to the Chair:
 - *Acacia purpureopetala* (Purple Wattle)
 - *Eucalyptus crenulata* (Buxton Gum)
 - *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* (Morrisby’s Gum)
 - *Hibiscus brennani* (Kakadu Hibiscus)
 - *Homoranthus darwinioides* (Fairy Bells)
 - *Myrmecodia beccarii* (Ant Plant)
 - *Rutidosia leptorrhychoides* (Button Wrinklewort)
 - *Sclerolaena napiformis* (Turnip Copperburr)
 - *Swainsona recta* (Small Purple Pea)
 - *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lilly Pilly)
- **agreed**, subject to the changes being incorporated, to provide the updated Conservation Advices for the ten Threatened Species Strategy priority plants to the Minister’s delegate for approval, after the working group has endorsed them
- **agreed** to provide advice to the Minister that eight of the species identified below and in [Item 7.5.11](#) and [Item 7.5.12](#) are suitable to undergo the process for consideration of the proposed decision not to have a recovery plan:
 - *Rutidosia leptorrhychoides* (Button Wrinklewort)
 - *Sclerolaena napiformis* (Turnip Copperburr)
 - *Swainsona recta* (Small Purple Pea)
 - *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lilly Pilly)
 - *Acacia whibleyana* (Whibley Wattle)
 - *Banksia cuneata* (Matchstick Banksia)
 - *Drakaea elastica* (Glossy-leaved Hammer Orchid)
 - *Prasophyllum murfetii* (Fleurieu leek orchid).

S47C

s47C

8. KEY THREATENING PROCESSES

- Nil.

9. ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Consultation

s47C

s47C

Final

9.2 Conservation Advice for the Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets ecological community

- The Department outlined the Conservation Advice for Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions.
- Members noted that the Department had revised and updated the Conservation Advice based on the most recent readily available information, including information from the Queensland Herbarium and the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Members noted that the Recovery Plan was due to sunset in April 2022 and that it would either need to be replaced or a decision made by the Minister to not have a recovery plan, at which point it would be required to have an approved Conservation Advice.
- Members discussed the Conservation Advice and provided editorial comments. Members suggested that a table itemising threats be considered for future Conservation Advices, and additional subheadings be considered for the actions section, with an emphasis placed on what needs to be done to restore the ecological community. The Committee further noted in relation to the research action on methodologies for condition assessment that Queensland and New South Wales have systems in place.

The Committee:

- **agreed**, subject to the changes proposed by the Committee and from NSW experts, to recommend that the Minister approve the Conservation Advice at [Item 9.2.1](#)
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that the ecological community be included in the subsequent recovery plan decision process
- **agreed** that the Committee will reconsider whether a recovery plan is required for this ecological community, based on the responses received from the consultation process.

10. RECOVERY PLANS

10.1 Recovery Plan for the White-throated Snapping Turtle (*Elseya albagula*)

- The Department outlined the Recovery Plan for the White-throated Snapping Turtle (*Elseya albagula*).
- Members discussed the Recovery Plan and provided editorial comments. Members suggested that it be made clearer that funding has not been confirmed, that two checklist appendices be merged to avoid duplication, that costing numbers be explained, 'responsible agencies' be re-phrased, and that a short opportunities section be included which justifies why raising awareness is a strategy.
- Members noted the differing views of stakeholders on the technical team and requested the Department to consider the effects of changes to water quality, not just predation on nests. The Department suggested that comments be requested from the states to provide more balance.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to [Item 10.1.1](#) as the Committee's advice in relation to the content of the Recovery Plan, and to provide the advice to the Minister to meet Section 274(1)(a) of the EPBC Act

- **noted** the summary of public and targeted consultation on the Draft Recovery Plan, and the Department's response ([Item 10.1.2](#))
- **noted** the information provided regarding Indigenous consultation ([Item 10.1.3](#)) on the Recovery Plan and commended **s22** for her work in that area
- **noted** the information provided regarding legislative compliance ([Items 10.1.3 and 10.1.4](#)) and assessment of habitat critical to the survival of the species ([Item 10.1.6](#)) and suggested that those tables could be combined in the future
- **agreed** to recommend the Draft National Recovery Plan for making by the Minister as the National Recovery Plan for the White-throated Snapping Turtle (*Elseya albagula*), subject to the Committee's feedback being considered in consultation with Queensland and the revised plan being considered for approval by Dr Mitchell, Dr Campbell and Dr Kendal out-of-session.
- **noted** Dr Mitchell and Dr Campbell will provide their feedback in writing.

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11. THREAT ABATEMENT PLANS

- Nil

12. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.1 Discussion on Threat Abatement Plans and partnerships

- Dr Legge provided an update on potential partnerships with ABARES and the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) (which replaced the Invasive Plants and Animals Committee) for developing and implementing TAPs.
- Members noted that ABARES were in the process of developing a prioritisation framework for invasive species and that the EIC were focussing on pests of national significance. Members agreed that it would be useful if joint plans could be made to utilise resources across the environmental, agricultural and biosecurity sectors. The Department noted that partnerships are contingent on the level of shared concerns.
- Members discussed the effectiveness of national action plans and TAPs and requested further advice from the Department outlining the relative merits of each, and what would be required to develop a national action plan for rabbits, for consideration at the next meeting.
- Members noted that a workshop on TAPs was scheduled for September 2019 and requested the Department to advise of key players who should be invited.
- Dr Campbell agreed to draft a submission to the [Senate inquiry into the impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#). Members noted that the closing date for submissions was 2 November 2018 but that the inquiry appeared to be still accepting submissions.

The Committee:

- **thanked** Dr Legge and the Department for their advice
- **requested** that the Department:
 - prepare a brief paper on the relative merits of TAPs and national action plans, and how to exploit the statutory advantages of both
 - prepare a brief paper on what would be need to develop a national action plan for rabbits
 - provide advice on who should be invited to the TAP workshop scheduled for September 2019.

12.2 Discussion with First Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Conservation Division

- Ms Jonasson thanked the Committee for their continued work and provided an overview of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance conference that she attended in Melbourne recently.
- Members noted the importance of conservation groups sourcing alternative funding opportunities and the recent collaborations between conservation groups and financial institutions.

CLOSING REMARKS

- The Chair thanked the Department and members for their work on TSSC74.
- The meeting closed at 4.35 pm on Tuesday 13 November 2018.

The Committee:

- **thanked** the Department for their work on TSSC74.

The Committee declares that these minutes are an accurate record of the 74th meeting.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee

27 February 2019

Guest and Departmental attendance

Guests (external)

: s47F

Executives

- Ms Kylie Jonasson, First Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Conservation Division
- Dr Sally Box, Threatened Species Commissioner
- Mr Geoff Richardson, Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division (PSCB, BCD)

Officers

<p>Species Information & Policy Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22</p>	<p>Ecological Communities Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22</p>	<p>Terrestrial Threatened Species Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22</p>
<p>Marine & Freshwater Species Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22</p>	<p>Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner, BCD</p> <p>s22</p>	<p>Environmental Biosecurity Section, Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch, BCD</p> <p>s22</p>
<p>Migratory Species Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22</p>	<p>Territories, Environment & Treaties Section, Australian Antarctic Division</p> <p>s22</p>	<p>Biodiversity Science Section, Parks Island and Biodiversity Science, Parks Australia</p> <p>s22</p>

THREATENED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Meeting 75: 26–27 February 2019, Canberra

MINUTES

Committee attendance:

Assoc. Prof Hamish Campbell, Prof Richard Harper, Prof David Keith, Dr David Kendal, Prof Sarah Legge (Acting Chair), Dr Nicola Mitchell, Prof Colin Simpfendorfer and Prof Helene Marsh (by phone for a subset of the meeting)

1. OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome to members and Chair's opening remarks

- Members noted that Prof Helene Marsh would be absent from the meeting due to illness but would be available via teleconference for several items. Members noted that Prof Kingsley Dixon was unable to attend the meeting due to the illness of his partner. Members noted that Prof David Keith and Dr David Kendal would be absent on Wednesday 27 February 2019 due to the recency of their reappointments and prior professional commitments.
- Members noted that in the absence of the appointed Chair, members were required to elect an acting Chair, as required under subsection 15.04 of the EPBC Regulations. Members agreed to elect Prof Sarah Legge to preside at the meeting.
- The Acting Chair opened the meeting at 9.33 am on Tuesday 26 February 2019.
- Members noted that the meeting had been shortened to two days and that only the most pressing items had been retained in the reduced agenda. It was also noted that the strategic workshop had also been deferred until later in the year. These changes had been made to enable the full complement of members to participate including the recent appointees.
- Members noted the new membership of the Committee, as well as the contributions of outgoing members Ms Louise Gilfedder and Prof Stuart Bunn.
- Members welcomed and introduced themselves to the newest member Prof Richard Harper and noted his background in agriculture and forest land management, particularly relating to salinity and climate change mitigation.
- Members noted that Ms Cecilia (Cissy) Gore-Birch would be commencing at TSSC76 (June 2019).
- Members thanked the Department for the preparation of materials for the meeting, especially the substantial work of Dr Ivan Lawler for his work on *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri* (Leadbeater's Possum).

The Acting Chair:

- **acknowledged** the Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Owners of country on which the Committee was meeting, recognised their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and paid the Committee's respects to their Elders past, present and emerging
- **thanked** former members, Ms Louise Gilfedder and Prof Stuart Bunn for their contribution
- **agreed** to write to the former members and thank them for their contributions
- **welcomed** new members Prof Richard Harper and Ms Cecilia (Cissy) Gore-Birch to the Committee
- **thanked** the Department for preparation of materials for the meeting
- **tabled** an apology from Prof Kingsley Dixon.

1.2 Declaration of Interests (under subsection 15.1 of EPBC Regulations)

- Members discussed the proposal to cumulatively record all interests in a separate register and noted that it would be attached to the minutes and made available on GovTEAMS for updating as required.

- Members provided new interests to include on the register to the Secretariat.

The Committee:

- **noted** the declarations made by members
- **agreed** that direct/indirect pecuniary interests will now be recorded in a separate register and attached to the minutes as an appendix.

1.3 Notification of members' relevant professional experiences since the previous meeting

- Members provided updates of relevant professional experiences since TSSC74 (November 2018).
- Assoc. Prof Campbell:
 - Recently promoted to Associate Professor.
- Prof Harper:
 - Has a proposal before Meat and Livestock Australia to discuss the use of saltbush to generate carbon credits.
 - Has a project assessing the feasibility of applying payment for forest ecosystem services in Vietnam and Bangladesh mangrove forests (<http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/show/2092>).
 - Co-authored a paper on the impact of climate change and fire frequency on the carbon balance and ecology of *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) forests (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/gcb.14589>).
- Prof Keith:
 - Attended the annual Ecological Society of Australia conference and presented a talk on measuring Area of Occupancy (AOO).
 - Attended an IUCN Red List Proteaceae assessment workshop. Prof Keith noted that there would be a number of listing assessments coming out of the workshop and that there was discussion around discrepancies between international listings and state listings.
- Prof Legge:
 - Recently promoted to Professor.
 - Attended a meeting of the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Threatened Species Recovery Hub (Prof Marsh also present) to discuss the development of a Threatened Mammal Index, which will be similar to the Threatened Bird Index launched in 2018. Prof Legge advised that Dr Rick Stuart-Smith (University of Tasmania) attended this meeting and raised concerns about the population trajectory of temperate reef species. This suggests that they could be worth considering through a Species Expert Assessment Plan (SEAP), which could be further discussed in [Item 6.9](#).
 - Attended the second public hearing of the [Senate Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#) on 14 February 2019 in Canberra. Prof Legge advised that questions were asked about monitoring, threat abatement, funding, and indigenous involvement, as well as the Common Assessment Method (CAM) and Leadbeater's Possum listing assessment and recovery plan.
 - Attended a meeting of the Feral Cat Taskforce on 7 February 2019 and raised joint management plans with Mr Ian Thompson, the inaugural Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer at the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. Prof Legge suggested inviting Mr Thompson to TSSC77 (September 2019) to discuss further.
 - On a panel of independent experts to review Adani's Black-throated Finch Management Plan.

- Attended a meeting of the Academy of Science's National Committee for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation which brought attention to the erosion in expertise of freshwater ecology and the substantial reduction in the number of academics and PhD students entering that area of research.
- Prof Simpfendorfer:
 - Presented a keynote talk at the Shark Conservation Summit, held in Sydney on 21–22 February 2019 and hosted jointly by Humane Society International (HSI) and Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS).
 - Advised that there would be an update on 21 March 2019 to the IUCN Red List and that the species being updated were covered under the NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub Shark Action Plan.
 - Involved in preparation of material for CITES 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) proposals for shark and ray species.

The Committee:

- **noted** the professional experiences of members and events of interest since the previous meeting.

1.4 Assistant Secretary and Directors' updates

- The Department provided updates on work being undertaken since TSSC74 (November 2018).
- *Protected Species and Communities Branch:*
 - Welcomed returning and new members to the Committee.
 - Advised that the Minister had recently made the following decisions:
 - appointed members to the Committee, including two new members Prof Richard Harper and Ms Cecilia (Cissy) Gore-Birch
 - made listing decisions for ten species (two plants and eight mammals) arising from TSSC73 (September 2018):
 - listed *Bruguiera hainesii* (Haine's Orange Mangrove) as Critically Endangered
 - retained *Oberonia attenuata* (Mossman Fairy Orchid) as Critically Endangered
 - decided *Bettongia gaimardi* (Eastern Bettong) was ineligible for listing
 - deleted *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) from Vulnerable
 - transferred *Melomys rubicola* (Bramble Cay Melomys) from Endangered to Extinct
 - deleted *Mesembriomys macrurus* (Golden-backed Tree-rat, Koorrawal) from Vulnerable
 - deleted *Notamacropus eugenii eugenii* (Tammar Wallaby (South Australia)) from Extinct
 - deleted *Pseudantechinus mimulus* (Carpentarian Antechinus) from Vulnerable
 - deleted *Vombatus ursinus ursinus* (Common Wombat (Bass Strait)) from Vulnerable
 - retained *Zygomys palatalis* (Carpentarian Rock-rat) as Endangered
 - extended the assessment timeframe for 11 species and four ecological communities arising from TSSC73 (September 2018):
 - to 30 March 2019 for:
 - *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion)

- *Philotheca sporadica* (Kogan Waxflower)
 - *Petrogale concinna concinna* (Nabarlek (Victoria River District))
- to 30 April 2019 for:
 - Illawarra-Shoalhaven subtropical rainforest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion ecological community
 - Robertson rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion ecological community
- to 31 July 2019 for Karst rising springs of south east Australia ecological community
- to 30 September 2019 for:
 - *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum*
 - *Asterolasia asteriscophora* subsp. *albiflora* (White Star Bush)
 - *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (Spotted-tail Quoll (south-east mainland))
 - *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider)
 - *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse)
 - *Petaurus australis Wet Tropics subspecies* (Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics))
 - *Potorous longipes* (Long-footed Potoroo)
 - *Prasophyllum litorale*
- to 31 October 2019 for River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of New South Wales ecological community
- transferred *Pteropus conspicillatus* (Spectacled-Flying Fox) from Vulnerable to Endangered
- adopted the:
 - National Recovery Plan for the Clay pans of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community
 - Recovery Plan for the Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat (*Conilurus penicillatus*)
 - Recovery Plan for the Central Rock-rat (*Zyzomys pedunculatus*)
- made the:
 - Threat abatement plan for disease in natural ecosystems caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
 - National Recovery Plan for the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia ecological community
- extended the decision timeframe to 1 July 2019 for three ecological communities:
 - Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by Black Gum or Brooker's Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*)
 - Poplar Box Grassy Woodlands on Alluvial Plains
 - Tuart Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain.
- Noted that the listing brief containing eight frog species from TSSC72 (June 2018) was with the Minister for consideration.
- Advised that the Department had also attended the second public hearing of the Senate Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis in Canberra on 14 February 2019

and that questions from Senators mainly related to compliance and the regulatory system. It was noted that questions from the first public hearing in October 2018 mostly related to the operation of the Branch.

- Advised that the February 2019 Senate Estimates session included numerous questions on the work of the Branch, including the status of the respective assessments for Leadbeater's Possum, Tamar Wallaby (South Australia) and *Neophoca cinerea* (Australian Sea Lion); what the Department had learnt from the extinction of the Bramble Cay Melomys; whether there would be a recovery plan for the Spectacled Flying-fox; the membership of the Committee; the differences between recovery plans and conservation advices; and outstanding decisions with the Minister.
- Advised that the report of the targeted review of interactions between the EPBC Act and the agriculture sector (also known as the [Craik Review](#)) had not yet been released.
- Advised that the statutory review into the operation of the EPBC Act was due to commence in October 2019.
- Advised that the Branch was not anticipating a significant change in budget in 2019/2020.
- Members raised concerns about the lack of freshwater ecology expertise within the membership of the Committee and advised that this would be discussed with the Department.
- *Species Information and Policy Section:*
 - Confirmed that the Minister had agreed to Committee's proposed theme for the 2019 nomination round of 'Species and ecological communities that are severely affected by fire regimes' and that the nominations were open from 1 October 2018 until 28 March 2019.
 - Advised that the Department had informed stakeholders who had written to the Minister about the Spectacled Flying-fox of the Minister's recent decision to transfer the species from Vulnerable to Endangered.
 - Clarified that two frogs had been removed from the frog listing brief from TSSC72 (June 2018) in order to resolve concerns raised by Queensland. The brief now contained eight frogs and is with the Minister for consideration (as mentioned above in the Protected Species and Communities Branch (PSCB) update).
 - Advised that the listing brief containing 34 species from TSSC74 (November 2018) was being finalised and would be provided to the Minister before 30 March 2019.
 - Advised that the Department had released the documents relating to the 2018 Proposed Priority Assessment List (PPAL) under a Freedom of Information request, and noted that copies of the released documents were included in [Item 4.1](#) for information.
 - Advised that the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) – Threatened Species Scientific Committee protocol remained with the IAC members for comment.
 - Advised that as part of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and NESP project to develop a National Action Plan for Australian Eucalypts, the Department attended a workshop in Queensland on 30 November 2018. Members noted that Ms Emily Beech from BGCI provided insights into the Global Tree Assessment, shared the list of more than 2000 Australian trees they hoped to assess by 2020 and confirmed that Myrtaceae and rainforest trees were a priority.
- Members flagged that some state agencies are engaged in the Proteaceae workshop, convened by the IUCN and that New South Wales have been discussing assessments of other taxa with the IUCN.
- *Ecological Communities Section:*
 - Confirmed that the decision timeframe extensions until 1 July 2019 for three ecological communities (mentioned above in the PSCB update) were 'to allow the Minister to consider more information about consultation that has occurred with stakeholders in

affected areas'. Members noted that the Department would be providing further briefing to the Minister on consultation activities to date and that key stakeholders, including nominators and non-government organisations, had been informed of the extensions.

- Confirmed that the Department was seeking to finalise two ecological community items at this meeting (Items 9.1 and 9.2) subject to the Committee's feedback.
- Advised that HSI had expressed interest in nominating two freshwater ecological communities for the 2019 assessment period. These included River Murray and associated wetlands, floodplains and groundwater systems, from the junction of the Darling River to the Sea; and Wetlands and inner floodplains of the Macquarie Marshes.
- Members discussed forming an out-of-session working group, consisting of Prof Marsh, Prof Harper, Prof Keith and s22, to review the consultation process for ecological communities with the aim of suggesting improvements in the context of the Craik Review.
- *Terrestrial Threatened Species Section:*
 - Advised that the Department was progressing a number of recovery plans, mainly for Threatened Species Strategy species, including *Macrotis lagotis* (Greater Bilby). Members noted that the draft recovery plan for four macadamia species had been released for public comment and that the draft plans for the Greater Bilby and *Sminthopsis psammophila* (Sandhill Dunnart) would be released shortly.
 - Confirmed that recovery plans for the Central Rock-rat and Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat (as mentioned above in the PSCB update) had now come into force.
 - Advised that the Department would be presenting a number of recovery plans for the Committee's consideration in 2019, as outlined in Item 3.2. Members noted that the Department would be presenting the recovery plan for *Pezoporus occidentalis* (Night Parrot) towards the end of the year and that the Indigenous-led Threatened Species of the Desert festival in mid-2019 would provide a good opportunity to engage with a number of interested groups.
 - Advised that the recovery plans for *Nyctophilus timoriensis* (South-eastern Long-eared Bat) and *Miniopterus schreibersii bassanii* (Southern Bent-wing Bat) were being finalised ready for the Minister's consideration.
 - Advised that the section was providing input into the Threatened Species Strategy Year 3 Report, particularly on mammals and birds in relation to the 'Improving Practices' target.
- *Marine and Freshwater Species Section:*
 - Reiterated that the recovery plans for 'Clay pans of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community', 'Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia ecological community', and Macquarie Perch had been signed by the Minister (as mentioned above in the PSCB update).
 - Advised that the emergency intervention undertaken for *Thymichthys politus* (Red Handfish) in November 2018 had been successful. Members noted that one egg mass and the attending adult had been taken into captivity and that of approximately 50 eggs, 20 had hatched and 15 were now feeding. Members also noted that the attending adult and juveniles would eventually be re-released and/or become part of the captive breeding population.
 - Advised that Minister Price had requested that the Committee prioritise the listing assessment of *Bidyanus bidyanus* (Silver Perch), which was on the 2018 Finalised Priority Assessment List (FPAL), due by 30 March 2021.
 - Advised that the Department had also attended the Shark Conservation Summit in Sydney on 21–22 February 2019 and that 3–5 nominations for sharks were expected in 2019, with three being proposed for listing as Conservation Dependent.

- Advised that the Department will be hosting a session on sharks included under the Convention on Migratory Species at the 5th International Whale Shark Conference. Members noted that the conference will be held in Exmouth, Western Australia (WA) and hosted by the WA government.
- Advised that the Recovery Plan for the Grey Nurse Shark (*Carcharias taurus*) in Australia was now due for its five-year statutory review, having been made in 2014. Members noted that aquariums would like to have the national moratorium on the take of Grey Nurse Sharks reviewed, in order to take 4–8 individuals from the wild over five years for captive breeding/display. The Department had requested a report on the current captive breeding being undertaken by the aquariums.
- Confirmed that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Board would like to work with the Committee to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the management of *Sphyrna lewini* (Scalloped Hammerhead Shark) and that the Department were proposing to include this as an item at TSSC76 (June 2019). Members noted that the Department would be preparing a paper to accompany this item.
- Advised that Draft National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) was now out for public comment, closing on 7 June 2019.
- Advised that the section had undergone several staffing changes.
- *Migratory Species Section:*
 - Advised that the Department was in the final stages of developing light pollution guidelines for marine turtles and shorebirds, and that the drafter was currently restructuring the content to best meet the needs of the anticipated users. Members noted that the guidelines were due to be finalised at the end of June 2019.
 - Advised that Senator Hinch had introduced a Bill to make changes to both the EPBC Act and GBRMPA Act to further regulate Indigenous hunting in Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) for dugongs and marine turtles. Members noted that the changes included increasing penalties from 2 to 5 years and adding additional reporting requirements. Members expressed interest in providing comments on the proposed legislation and noted the lack of consultation with affected stakeholder groups. The Department advised that on 14 February 2019, a Senate inquiry had been opened to investigate the proposed changes and submissions had been invited from the Department and GBRMPA.
 - Advised that the Department visited Perth and Christmas Island to undertake consultations on the *Fregata andrewsi* (Christmas Island Frigatebird) Conservation Advice and that stakeholder groups had provided useful feedback.
- Members discussed the progress of the development of referral guidelines for dugongs and coastal dolphins, and noted that, while they had been put on hold, this had impacted the effectiveness of monitoring processes. The Department proposed having an out-of-session discussion to identify specific deficiencies.
- The Department agreed to consider the relationship between Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAS) and Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for marine mammals before the Australian workshop on IMMAS scheduled for 2020.
- *Environmental Biosecurity Section:*
 - Reiterated that the Minister had made the 'Threat abatement plan for disease in natural ecosystems caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*' and advised that the implementation group had been notified of the decision. Members noted that further media on the plan was being discussed with the Minister's office.
 - Advised that the House of Representatives had called an [Inquiry into controlling the spread of cane toads](#). Members noted that there was a public hearing for non-government organisations and then a second for government, and that the Senate report was due to be released within the next two weeks. Members noted that the

hearings explored broad scale control methods, including the potential use of waterless barriers, pheromones and gene technology.

- Advised that the [Senate Inquiry into the impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#) had been extended, with the report now due before 17 September 2019. Members noted that the submission deadline had also been extended and advised that their submission was yet to be drafted.
- Advised that the Feral Cat Taskforce had met on 7 February 2019 and noted that the regular meetings were proving useful and that the taskforce was acting like a proxy implementation group for the TAP.
- Advised that there had been progress with commercialising the Curiosity® cat bait and that the Department aimed to provide more detail at TSSC76 (June 2019).
- Advised that the Australian Plant Biosecurity Foundation and Mr Bob Makinson had been asked to brief Senator Rice regarding Myrtle Rust. Members noted that the Action Plan for Myrtle Rust was in the process of being rewritten.
- Advised that the Department had prepared an information paper on threat abatement which was to be presented at a threats workshop being hosted by the Invasive Species Council on 25–26 March 2019. Members noted that Prof Marsh, Dr Kendal and Prof Legge had also been invited to the meeting, and also suggested that the Australian Biosecurity Symposium on 12–13 June 2019 could also be a good platform to share information.
- Advised that the Department was reviewing the threat abatement plan (TAP) to reduce the impacts on northern Australia's biodiversity by the five listed grasses.

The Committee:

- **noted** the updates provided by staff on work being undertaken by the Department.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Draft minutes of TSSC74 (November 2018)

- Members noted that all Committee comments had been incorporated into the draft minutes and that there were no substantial changes.

The Committee:

- **agreed** that the minutes were an accurate record of TSSC74 (November 2018) (Moved: Dr Mitchell, Seconded: Assoc. Prof Campbell).

2.2 Actions arising from previous meetings

- Members noted that the actions table had been updated with a new simplified layout.
- Members noted that following the last meeting, 14 actions were added, seven actions were completed and six actions had been marked for removal as they had been superseded or addressed through other means. Members identified further actions that could be marked for removal.
- Members noted that a number of actions would be addressed through strategic workshops and discussed the progress of the Fire Key Threatening Process (KTP). The Department agreed to further discuss the Fire KTP with Prof Dixon.
- Members requested that the words that they had drafted on species distribution modelling for conservation advices be returned to them for further refinement.

The Committee:

- **noted** the actions arising and progress as detailed in [Item 2.2](#).

3. WORK PLANS

3.1 & 3.2 Progress report and statutory items

- Members noted that the layout of the progress report and statutory work plan had been simplified and updated using a new legend. As requested at TSSC74 (November 2018), the new layout aimed to provide more of a focus on items that still require consideration by the Committee.
- Members noted progress in the work plans since TSSC74 (November 2018), including that the Committee had completed their assessment of a number of items and that there were 74 species under assessment and 11 ecological communities.
- Members noted that the Minister or Minister's delegate had:
 - approved the Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations (2018)
 - made the National Recovery Plan for the Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*)
 - amended the list of migratory species to correct the scientific name of *Orcaella brevirostris* to *Orcaella heinsohni* (Australian Snubfin Dolphin)
 - updated the conservation advice for *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Australasian Bittern)
- Members noted that since the paper was uploaded, the Minister had made further decisions, as outlined in [Item 1.4](#), and that these decisions would be included in [Items 3.1 and 3.2](#) for TSSC76 (June 2019).
- Members requested that Table 5 of [Item 3.2](#) reflect that 14 Christmas Island species would be undergoing the process for consideration of the proposed decision to not have a recovery plan, as agreed at TSSC73 (Sep 18), but that the decision was yet to be made.

The Committee:

- **noted** the progress in the work plan since TSSC74 (November 2018) and the updated layout
- **noted** decisions by the Minister or Minister's delegate since TSSC74 (November 2018).

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Correspondence since TSSC74 (November 2018)

- Members noted correspondence with the Minister as summarised in [Item 4.1](#).
- Members noted that since the paper was uploaded, the Minister had sent through a further six letters advising of her recent decisions, as outlined in [Item 1.4](#), and that these would be included in [Item 4.1](#) for TSSC76 (June 2019).

The Committee:

- **noted** the letters from the Minister
- **noted** other incoming letters and state committee advices
- **noted** the outgoing correspondence.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Future meetings

- Members noted that the Department was seeking formal agreement on dates for TSSC79, agreeing that 25–27 February 2020 was preferable to the previously proposed dates of 3–5 March 2020, due to members' university and Academy of Science commitments. Members requested advice from the Department about permanently changing the first meeting of each year to late February.
- Members noted that a new table had been included in [Item 5.1](#), which outlines agreed and proposed dates in 2019 for other workshops where a Committee member may be asked by the Department to attend. The inclusion of this table aimed to provide more oversight on all potential upcoming work and further assist with planning.

- Members discussed the workload for the next meeting and noted that several strategic items intended for TSSC75 (February 2019) had been deferred until TSSC76 (June 2019) as a result of the delay in appointment of members.
- Members discussed the need to progress strategic workshops and agreed that the next workshop would be on conservation planning. Prof Marsh and Prof Harper agreed to develop the agenda for the workshop out-of-session. Members noted that the workshop would be held on 3 June 2019, that the PPAL discussion would occur on the morning of 4 June 2019 and that TSSC76 would then start following lunch on 4 June 2019 and continue, if needed, until 5pm 6 June. Members agreed to travel later on 6 June or in the morning of 7 June if needed.
- Members confirmed that the KTP workshop could be deferred until after the Invasive Species Council workshop in March 2019 and that the ecological communities' workshop could be held in either September or November 2019.

The Committee:

- **agreed in principle** that TSSC79 will be held on 25-27 February 2020, with an informal/workshop day on 24 February 2020
- **agreed in principle** that the conservation planning workshop will be held on 3 June 2019
- **noted** that the Department will provide advice on the appropriate timing for the first meeting in 2021.

5.2 Advice on payments to members and the budgetary outlook

- Members noted that the budget was tracking well and that a small underspend was anticipated as a result of TSSC75 being shortened to two days.
- Members noted that funds had been allocated for IUCN training for new members, as well as a facilitator for the proposed strategic workshops.
- Members noted that the budget for 2019/2020 was currently being determined and that no significant change to funding allocation was anticipated.

The Committee:

- **noted** the budget for 2018–2019.

6. STRATEGIC ISSUES/POLICY ITEMS

6.1 Implementation of the Common Assessment Method

- Members noted that the Department was continuing conversations with Western Australia regarding the dispute resolution process for *Lerista lineata* (Perth Slider). Members noted that the independent expert panel for this species had convened and that a second teleconference was anticipated to be held in the coming weeks to finalise their report.
- Members noted that the Department had discussed cross-jurisdictional priorities with the CAM Working Group and that this would be outlined further in [Item 6.9](#).
- Members discussed the Conservation Dependent paper and noted the importance of explaining how the category can provide positive conservation outcomes. Members provided editorial comments and suggested that the principles be made clearer; that information sharing be highlighted as a two-way process between the states and Commonwealth; sections describing the history of the category be removed; that it be made clearer who the responsible jurisdictions are for completing the assessments; that the management approach outlined in the recommendations be mentioned earlier in the paper; and the flowchart be simplified.
- Members queried why non-fish species were not included under the CAM as Conservation Dependent and discussed the definition of fish.
- Members discussed the current use and interpretation of 'Data Deficient' and highlighted the importance of being mindful of poorly known but imperilled species when applying the term. The Department clarified that 'Data Deficient' is not a category used under the CAM.

The Committee:

- **noted** the progress of the CAM, particularly in policy and governance arrangements
- **noted** that the Department will provide consolidated Commonwealth feedback to New South Wales on the Conservation Dependent paper.

6.2 Discussion with the Threatened Species Commissioner

- The Threatened Species Commissioner, Dr Sally Box, provided an update on the Threatened Species Strategy (TSS) Year Three Report.
- The Commissioner highlighted the targets related to feral cat management and advised that the target to eradicate feral cats from five islands was progressing well, with Dirk Hartog Island now free of feral cats. Members noted that RMIT's national feral cat survey report is intended to be released following the Minister's approval of the TSS Year Three Report.
- Members noted that the scorecards for the priority mammal and bird species had been updated following feedback from the Committee at TSSC74 (November 2018) and commended the Commissioner's Office for their work on this.
- Members discussed the updated scorecards and noted the involvement of the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub. Members noted that information on historic and current trends, key threats, and management actions underway had been collected from multiple stakeholders and had been used by species experts to estimate species trajectories under different management scenarios.
- Members discussed the messaging of the scorecards and suggested that total population size could be included for context. Members noted that the Leadbeater's Possum and *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse) scorecards would reflect that their listing statuses were under assessment. The Commissioner confirmed that the scorecards would clearly state that they did not pre-empt any decision or assessment of the Committee. In addition, the Commissioner noted that the scorecards did not replace conservation advices or recovery plans, but were another information tool. Members requested that the finalised scorecards be provided to the Committee, noting that the scorecards for the Leadbeater's Possum and Northern Hopping Mouse would be provided prior to being made publicly available.

The Committee:

- **thanked** the Commissioner and her team for the information and updates provided
- **noted** that the Commissioner will provide the scorecards, once finalised, to the Committee.

6.3 Sunsetting Conservation Advice Project – 12 species for agreement

- The Department outlined that the 12 conservation advices were part of Tranche 1 for the Sunsetting Conservation Advice Project and that they were accompanied by recovery plan decision support tools. Members noted that the relevant jurisdictions had been consulted, as well as the recovery team for *Peophila cincta cincta*, and that their comments had been incorporated.
- Members discussed each of the conservation advices and provided editorial comments. Members highlighted that there was some excellent terminology that could be incorporated across conservation advices in the future, especially in relation to recognising the outcomes and impacts of recovery plans, as well as describing habitat critical for survival and corresponding research actions.
- Members also made general comments regarding improving consistency in the application of the threats table, threat descriptions of fires, descriptions of population and subpopulation, as well as removing life history information from the description section.
- For *Ricinocarpus gloria-medii*, members noted that the Department had recently received further advice explaining why a recovery plan was not recommended. Members noted that the following wording would be included in the advice to reflect the new information:
 - '*Ricinocarpus gloria-medii* is endemic to the NT and is known from only five populations in areas where fire management is being coordinated for this and other

species with similar threats between a limited number of land holders. There is no need for a recovery plan.¹

- Members discussed the merits of a recovery plan for *Aquila audax fleayi* (Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle), given the Tasmanian government recommended to retain a recovery plan, and there is a committed group of stakeholders undertaking recovery activities. While the Committee decided to recommend not to have a plan, they agreed it would be worthwhile to engage those stakeholders to ensure the Conservation Advice is comprehensive and meaningful.
- Members noted that the PSCB was working with the Environment Standards Division to better capture information on species regularly triggering referrals.
- Members noted that updates to the conservation advice template would be made following TSSC76 (June 2019) and that working groups would be held for the next grouping of conservation advices before TSSC76.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to conservation advices for 12 species identified below ([Item 6.3.1](#)):
 - *Acacia latzii*
 - *Acacia undoolyana*
 - *Allocasuarina emuina*
 - *Aquila audax fleayi*
 - *Boronia quadrilata*
 - *Boronia viridiflora*
 - *Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*
 - *Litoria olongburensis*
 - *Peophila cincta cincta*
 - *Prostanthera askania*
 - *Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*
 - *Ricinocarpus gloria-medii*
- **agreed** to provide the final conservation advices to the Minister's delegate for approval, subject to the Committee's feedback being incorporated
- **agreed** to commence the process for a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a recovery plan (s 269AA(5) of the EPBC Act) for 10 species identified below ([Item 6.3.1](#)):
 - *Acacia latzii*
 - *Acacia undoolyana*
 - *Allocasuarina emuina*
 - *Aquila audax fleayi*
 - *Boronia quadrilata*
 - *Boronia viridiflora*
 - *Litoria olongburensis*
 - *Prostanthera askania*
 - *Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*
 - *Ricinocarpus gloria-medii*
- **agreed** to retain the requirement for a recovery plan for *Peophila cincta cincta* and *Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*
- **agreed** to review the remainder of the species in Tranche 1 and six South Australian orchids that were delayed in 2018, out-of-session before bringing to TSSC76 (June 2019).

6.4 Review of species prioritisation decision support tool

- Members noted that the species prioritisation decision support tool (DST) was previously revised in 2014 and that the Department was seeking to provide clarity around the purpose of the inclusion and exclusion statements.
- Members noted that the changes to the DST were minor and advised they had no editorial or substantive comments.
- Members discussed the importance of acknowledging extinction and undertook to find out whether different taxa were currently accurately reflected in the Extinct category.

The Committee:

- **noted** the decision support tool and its purpose in the PPAL process, including the drafting of the inclusion and exclusion statements
- **agreed** that the decision support tool will not be undertaken for CAM cross jurisdictional species and decisions to include species will be based on the content provided by the jurisdictions.

6.5 Discussion with Professor Stephen Garnett regarding costing of recovery plans

- Members welcomed Prof Stephen Garnett to the meeting via Skype.
- Prof Garnett provided background on how the costing sheet for the Swift Parrot was developed and members agreed with the importance of producing effective costings as recovery plans are used to guide investment.
- Members noted that costing recovery plans is a difficult task that many scientists and recovery teams struggle to complete in a meaningful and transparent way. Members suggested that the development of training modules or short videos on how to complete costing sheets would be useful, as well as collaboration between biologists and financial experts.
- Members discussed the difficulties in applying standard costings across different species, as well as across recovery plans that have actions with different scales.
- Members acknowledged the value of further understanding how recovery teams currently develop costings and suggested that a case study would be useful moving forward.

The Committee:

- **thanked** Prof Garnett for the information he provided
- **noted** that Prof Garnett will provide an update on the time and effort that goes into costings once he has consulted further with recovery teams.

6.6 Extensions to species and ecological community assessment timeframes

- The Department outlined that extensions were being requested for four species and four ecological communities.
- Members noted that the final listing advice for *Thalassarche cauta cauta* (Shy Albatross) would be presented at TSSC76 (June 2019).
- Members raised whether it would be beneficial to have longer assessment timeframes for ecological communities included in future PPALs. The Department confirmed that longer timeframes had been included for the most recently added ecological communities.
- Members noted that further extensions may be requested at TSSC76 (June 2019).

The Committee:

- **agreed** to request that the Minister extend the assessment completion timeframes for four species identified below:
 - *Thalassarche cauta cauta* (Shy Albatross), until 30 July 2019, due to the timing of the public comment period (closing 15 February 2019) not leaving enough time to finalise the assessment for TSSC75 (February 2019)
 - *Philothea sporadica* (Kogan Waxflower) until 30 March 2020, as a policy paper is being finalised which aims to resolve issues raised through the dispute resolution process regarding the definition of “locations”
 - *Litoria nannotis* (Waterfall Frog) and *Litoria rheocola* (Common Mist Frog), until 30 October 2019, to resolve a dispute with Queensland regarding the proposal to delist these species.
- **agreed** to request that the Minister extend the assessment completion timeframes for four ecological communities identified below:
 - Ridged Plains Mallee Woodland until 20 December 2019
 - Mallee bird community of the Murray Darling Depression bioregion until 30 April 2020
 - Melaleuca dominated Temperate Swamp Sclerophyll Forests on Coastal Floodplains of Eastern Australia until 30 October 2020
 - Lowland Tropical Rainforest of the Wet Tropics Bioregion until 30 October 2020.

6.7 Native fish deaths in the Murray-Darling Basin

- Members welcomed representatives from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO) and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) to the meeting.
- CEWO and MDBA identified the affected EPBC Act listed threatened species, the spatial extent of the fish kill events and interventions to mitigate against future events—including the development of a \$5 million Native Fish Management and Recovery Strategy. Members noted that the Strategy was to be developed in collaboration with jurisdictions and communities and that an initial workshop, convened by MDBA, was planned for April 2019.
- Members acknowledged the tragedy of the scale of the events and the importance of the Committee being engaged in the Strategy. Members discussed the currency of recovery plans and conservation advices for *Bidyanus bidyanus* (Silver Perch) and *Maccullochella peelii* (Murray Cod) and noted that the Strategy would be completing a stocktake of the status of existing statutory documents. Members noted the request from the Minister and agreed to prioritise the assessment of the Silver Perch.
- Members noted that focus had mainly been placed on larger species of fish and queried whether smaller species had also been similarly affected, as well as other taxa, such as crayfish or turtles.
- CEWO advised that a population census had been undertaken for Murray Cod at the beginning of 2018, following a series of environmental flows down the Murray-Darling. Members noted that the census revealed Murray Cod had spawned following the environmental flows and that the population had improved further away from Menindee Lakes.
- Members reiterated their concern about the decline in freshwater research capacity generally, and the lack of freshwater expertise on the Committee, and asked whether the Committee could request the Minister to consider funding a NESP hub for freshwater systems.
- Members also raised that barriers to fish movement had become a problem in the Murray-Darling Basin and whether a KTP might be an appropriate way to address the issue, which could be discussed further in [Item 6.9](#).

The Committee:

- **agreed** to reply to the Minister regarding the prioritisation of the reassessment of the Silver Perch
- **agreed** to write to the Minister alerting her to the decline in fresh water expertise and capacity within Australia, as well concerns about freshwater expertise on the Committee
- **noted** the information provided, with particular regard to EPBC Act listed native fish species (namely Murray Cod and Silver Perch), to further inform current listing status, recovery plans and/or other listing advice as relevant.

6.8 Heat stress-related deaths of *Pteropus conspicillatus* (Spectacled Flying-fox)

- Members noted that the Minister had made the decision to transfer Spectacled Flying-fox from Vulnerable to Endangered and had written to her Queensland counterpart to advise of the decision.
- Members discussed updating the conservation advice to incorporate new data on population estimates, adding extreme weather events as a threat, and adding more information on the role of, and support for, volunteer carers who respond to these events. Members agreed that the Committee's Mammal Working Group would review the updated advice out-of-session and the Department would finalise it and provide it to the Minister's delegate for consideration.
- Members noted that the Queensland listing authority would be updating the state listing status and raised whether this could occur under the CAM. The Department noted that this was being explored with Queensland.
- The Department clarified that unlike *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Flying-fox), the Spectacled Flying-fox had not been affected by heat stress events of this scale prior to the November 2018 event. Members noted the substantial efforts of wildlife carers in response to the unanticipated event.

- Members discussed the learnings from the event within the context of increasing urbanisation. Members noted that some of the current management actions, such as weed management and maintaining the integrity of the camp, can be quite divisive within the community.
- Members discussed the development of guidelines to assist with the timing and triggering of reassessments in response to critical events that cause mass deaths.
- The Threatened Species Commissioner noted resources available for potential emergency intervention.

The Committee:

- **noted** the Minister's recent decision to transfer the species from Vulnerable to Endangered
- **agreed** to write to the Queensland listing authority asking them to consider the reassessment under the CAM
- **agreed** to develop a small working group (consisting of Dr Kendal, Assoc. Prof Campbell and Mr Jason Ferris), out-of-session, to draft guidelines on the timing of reconsideration of listing and to identify which type of species require explicit mention of triggers for management responses to adverse events in conservation advice
- **agreed** for the Department, in consultation with relevant experts, to revise the conservation advice for the Spectacled Flying-Fox to incorporate the threat and relevant actions relating to extreme events and communicate the updated conservation advice to relevant stakeholders.

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6.10 Documenting standards of evidence in listing assessments

- Members discussed the existing guidance material and provided editorial comments. Members suggested that the indigenous engagement section could include information on how to better use largely oral or unpublished material. Members noted good examples of using oral indigenous knowledge to assist with tracking population changes in whales and caribou in Canada.

- Members suggested that examples could be included in text to provide further guidance for complex issues and also proposed the development of a matrix or graphic to outline the different standards of evidence. The Department proposed capturing these suggestions within the CAM policy paper and suggested making the final paper publicly available.
- Members noted that the process carried out for the Leadbeater's Possum reassessment was consistent with the guidance material.

The Committee:

- **noted** the existing national and IUCN guidance related to standards of evidence
- **discussed** preferred refinements to the material to clarify the Committee's approach
- **agreed** to proceed with updating the CAM policy paper and update with relevant information from the SEAP documentation.

6.11 Proposed species for inclusion and down-listing on the CITES lists

- Members noted that the Department will be representing Australia at CITES CoP18, to be held on 23 May to 3 June 2019.
- Members noted the proposals to amend the Appendices for Australian species, including adding nine species and downlisting six species from Appendix 1 to Appendix 2. Members discussed the proposed amendments and noted that downlisting the six species through CITES would not affect their listing status under the EPBC Act, it simply meant that they had not been found to be traded.
- Members noted the consultation process for amending the CITES Appendices and suggested further stakeholders to consult with, including Cairns Marine regarding the aquarium trade of *Rhina ancylostoma* (Shark Ray).

The Committee:

- **noted** the proposed species amendments to the CITES Appendices as outlined in [Item 6.11.2](#)
- **agreed** to provide the Department a list of stakeholders to consult.

7. SPECIES

Consultation

7.1 Common Assessment Method – New state-led species assessments

- The Department provided assessments of five species prepared by states through the CAM, including the first assessment from South Australia.
- Members discussed the five assessments, providing editorial and substantive comments. Members noted that the population size estimates for the New South Wales species were conservative and that the language used for population declines needed to be consistent across the criteria (i.e. data deficient used in some, but not others).
- Members suggested that a population estimate should be able to be given for *Persoonia mollis* subsp. *revoluta* given the information provided on the distribution of the species and noted that the Area of Occupancy (AOO) and Extent of Occurrence (EEO) was quite low. Members discussed whether this species may meet the criteria for Endangered or Critically Endangered.
- Members suggested that clarification on which landowners would be implementing the actions outside of the marine protected area for *Dendronephthya australis*.
- Members noted the importance of interpreting the IUCN criteria consistently based on the IUCN Guidelines, and that inconsistencies may occur between jurisdictions from time to time. Members noted that future assessments could benefit from a coordinated approach on "locations", which was being framed as a policy paper by the CAM Working Group in consultation with the IUCN Red List Unit.
- The Department advised that a sixth assessment, for *Gaultheria viridicarpa*, had been received from New South Wales and members agreed to review this assessment out-of-session. Members noted that New South Wales will now open their public consultation periods for three

months, which will provide better overlap with Committee meetings and make it easier to provide comments in session.

The Committee:

- **agreed** that the Department would provide the Committee's feedback to New South Wales and South Australia, with a view to enhancing a shared understanding of the IUCN criteria and key concepts
- **agreed** to add one South Australian species (*Spyridium fontis-woodii*) and two New South Wales species (*Persoonia mollis* subsp. *revoluta* and *Dendronephthya australis*) to the 2018 FPAL (see [Item 7.1.1](#)), with an assessment completion time of 12 months after the lead jurisdiction provides updated assessments incorporating any feedback from the Committee
- **agreed** to write to the Minister out-of-session advising that three species have been added to the 2018 FPAL
- **agreed** to release the assessments of these three species and two New South Wales species on the 2017 FPAL (*Helichrysum calvertianum* and *Grevillea raybrownii*) for public consultation using the questions at [Item 7.1.2](#), once the jurisdictions have incorporated the feedback from the Committee
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister the listing decisions for all five species identified below ([Item 7.1.1](#)), if no comments are received and if the jurisdictions agree with the feedback from the Committee:
 - *Spyridium fontis-woodii* for listing as Critically Endangered
 - *Dendronephthya australis* for listing as Endangered
 - *Persoonia mollis* subsp. *revoluta*, *Helichrysum calvertianum* and *Grevillea raybrownii* for listing as Vulnerable
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that a recovery plan is not recommended for the five species identified below ([Item 7.1.3](#)):
 - *Spyridium fontis-woodii*
 - *Dendronephthya australis*
 - *Persoonia mollis* subsp. *revoluta*
 - *Helichrysum calvertianum*
 - *Grevillea raybrownii*
- **agreed** for a small working group (consisting of Prof Dixon, Dr Kendal and Prof Keith, with the remainder of the Committee to be included in correspondence) to review the new New South Wales-led assessment of a cross-jurisdictional species, *Gaultheria viridicarpa*, out-of-session, before New South Wales' public consultation process for the species closes on 5 April 2019.

Final

7.2 Common Assessment Method – Final endemic legacy species assessments

- The Department outlined the consultation process for the listing assessment of *Myoporum turbinatum* (Salt Myoporum) and members noted that two substantive comments had been received highlighting that the interpretation of concepts of 'severe fluctuations' and 'locations' in Criteria 2 led to an assessment of not eligible for listing under any category, rather than listing as Endangered.
- Members acknowledged the desirability of harmonising how risk is evaluated across the jurisdictions and suggested that the EPBC Act could be amended to better reflect the CAM Memorandum of Understanding.
- Members provided editorial comments and suggested that survey effort needed to be better described; that it be made more explicit that new populations have not been found but that survey effort had been more comprehensive; and information be added which describes whether threats are still impacting the species or not, noting that changes to salinity and hydrology could be a continuing threat.
- Members supported the idea of a further meeting of the scientific committee chairs to further discuss standards of evidence.

The Committee:

- **noted** that two comments were received during the consultation period for *Myoporum turbinatum* (Salt Myoporum) ([Items 7.2.2 and 7.2.3](#)) that raised concerns about the assessment outcome given the interpretation of Criterion 2
- **noted** Western Australia's response to these comments ([Item 7.2.2](#)) and revised assessment ([Item 7.2.1](#))
- **agreed** to provide the assessment for this species ([Item 7.2.1](#)), prepared by Western Australia using the CAM, to the Minister as the Committee's written assessment, subject to the Committee's feedback being incorporated
- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister that *Myoporum turbinatum* be deleted from the list in the Endangered category
- **recommended** that standards of evidence and interpretation of risk be further discussed in a future meeting of the scientific committee chairs.

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7.6 Conservation Advice for six Christmas Island bird species

- The Department outlined that the six conservation advices were drafted using the same format as the advice for *Fregata andrewsii* (Christmas Island Frigatebird), which the Committee had reviewed at TSSC74 (November 2018).

- Members noted that the Department had visited Perth and Christmas Island recently to undertake consultation on the Christmas Island Frigatebird conservation advice and that feedback from stakeholders had informed the six conservation advices being presented.
- Members provided editorial comments and suggested that maps be included where possible; that cyclones be described as less frequent, but more intense and be separated from climate change in the threats table; and that a cyclone response plan be included in the management actions.
- Members queried whether disease could be removed as a threat for wide-ranging species and suggested that avian influenza (H5N1) could be a potential threat as Christmas Island is west of the Wallace Line. Members also suggested that centipedes and cats could be a predation threat.
- Members discussed how existing management is used as the baseline for the threats matrix. Members noted that the conservation advice template would be further discussed at TSSC76 (June 2019).
- Members noted that species distribution maps would be provided to the Committee before the conservation advices are provided to the Minister's delegate for approval.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to provide the conservation advices ([Items 7.6.1.1–7.6.1.6](#)) to the Minister or Minister's delegate as the Committee's written assessment, subject to the Committee's feedback being incorporated.

7.7 Name changes for seven species

- Members noted the seven proposed nomenclatural changes and advised they had no comments.

The Committee:

- **agreed** to recommend to the Minister's delegate the following nomenclatural changes in the list of threatened species:
 - *Discocharopa vogens* to *Ammoniropa vogens*
 - *Hylacola pyrrhopygia parkeri* to *Calamanthus pyrrhopygius parkeri*
 - *Niveoscincus palfreymani* to *Carinascincus palfreymani*
 - *Saiphos reticulatus* to *Coeranoscincus reticulatus*
 - *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor* to *Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*
 - *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides* to *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*
 - *Sminthopsis aitkeni* to *Sminthopsis griseoventer aitkeni*.

8. KEY THREATENING PROCESSES

- Nil.

9. ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Final

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10. RECOVERY PLANS

10.1 Update on the recovery plan for *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri* (Leadbeater's Possum)

- Members noted that the recovery plan drafting group had now reconvened and that the final draft was anticipated to be presented to the Committee at TSSC76 (June 2019). Members agreed for a small working group to review the revised draft before TSSC76.
- Members noted that the drafting group had discussed the new information arising from the listing reassessment and drafting of the conservation advice and how the recovery plan would need to be updated to ensure its currency. Members noted that the drafting group had agreed that the background information would need to be updated. A further public comment period was unlikely to be needed as the objectives and actions within the plan were unlikely to be substantially changed from the version which was published for public comment in February 2016.
- Members noted that Zoos Victoria had committed to hosting a forum to discuss research on Leadbeater's Possum, which had potential to identify research priorities referenced in the draft recovery plan.

The Committee:

- **noted** the status of the Leadbeater's Possum recovery plan
- **agreed** for a working group (consisting of Prof Marsh, Prof Legge and Dr Mitchell) to review the revised recovery plan out-of-session before TSSC76 (June 2019)
- **noted** the Department will follow up with the science workshop organisers on priority issues.

11. THREAT ABATEMENT PLANS

11.1 National Invasive Ant Biosecurity Plan

- The Department advised that the 'biosecurity plan' was going through a parallel consultation process with the National Biosecurity Committee and that it had been reviewed by the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) on 12 February 2019. Members noted that the EIC had tasked their working group to oversee the implementation of the 'biosecurity plan'.
- The Department clarified that the Minister would be advised of the 'biosecurity plan' and asked to agree that at TAP is not the most feasible, effective and efficient way to abate the process. Members highlighted that the 'biosecurity plan' was more useful in this situation and noted that it was a good example of a coordinated across-government approach to address the threatening processes.
- Members noted that the actions within the 'biosecurity plan' had been updated following public comment, but that other content remained largely the same. Members discussed the revised plan, including how public comments had been incorporated, and provided editorial comments.

The Committee:

- **endorsed** the National Invasive Ant Biosecurity Plan as a feasible, effective and efficient means to abate the two key threatening processes for Red Imported Fire Ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) and Yellow Crazy Ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) on Christmas Island
- **agreed** to advise the Minister that with the National Invasive Ant Biosecurity Plan in place, a TAP is not required
- **thanked and commended** Dr Julie Quinn for her work on the plan.

12. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.1 Update on *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse)

- Members noted that the Anindilyakwa Land Council now had new survey data on *Notomys aquilo* (Northern Hopping Mouse). The data was obtained by conducting aerial surveys to locate burrows and then camera traps were used to identify the species present at those burrows.
- Members noted that more Northern Hopping Mice had been found through the surveys on Groote Eylandt and population estimates may be inferred from these data.
- Similiar surveys on the mainland had failed to find Northern Hopping Mice and all burrows located from the air where those of *Pseudomys delicatulus* (Delicate Mouse).

The Committee:

- **agreed** to request the new survey data on the Northern Hopping Mouse from the Anindilyakwa Land Council.

CLOSING REMARKS

- The Acting Chair thanked members and the Department for their work leading up to and during TSSC75.
- The Chair closed the meeting at 3.01 pm on Wednesday 27 February 2019.

The Committee:

- **thanked** the Department for preparing materials.

The Committee declares that these minutes are an accurate record of the 75^h meeting.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee

4 June 2019

Guest and Departmental attendance

Guests (external)

- s47F [redacted] Charles Darwin University
- S4 / F [redacted] Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Executives

- Dr Sally Box, Threatened Species Commissioner
- Mr Geoff Richardson, Assistant Secretary, Protected Species and Communities Branch, Biodiversity Conservation Division (PSCB, BCD)

Officers

<p>Species Information & Policy Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p>	<p>Ecological Communities Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p>	<p>Terrestrial Threatened Species Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p>
<p>Marine & Freshwater Species Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p>	<p>Migratory Species Section, PSCB, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p> <p>[redacted]</p> <p>[redacted]</p>	<p>Environmental Biosecurity Section, Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p>
<p>Wildlife Trade Assessment Section, Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch, BCD</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p>	<p>Southern Basin Section, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office</p> <p>s22 [redacted]</p>	

THREATENED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Register of pecuniary interests declared under subsection 15.01(1) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*

Chair	Interest
Prof Helene Marsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding recipient for National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Tropical Water Quality Hub and member of Scientific Advisory Committee • Co-Chair of Sirenian IUCN Specialist Group • Reviewer of <i>The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012</i>. • Reviewer of the 2019 GBR Outlook Report • Funding received from the Department for cetacean and dugong research • Member of Gladstone Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel • Member of the Independent Scientific Panel for Reef 2050 • Leading the Reef Integrated Monitoring megafauna team • Natural heritage expert on Australia's delegation to the World Heritage Committee • Member of the Advisory Committee for Townsville Port • Council member of the Australian Academy of Science
Members	
Assoc. Prof Hamish Campbell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding recipient for a project on habitat selection by <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> (Eastern Curlew) • Undertaking a project with Rio Tinto • Engaged in consultancy with Vista Gold on <i>Erythrura gouldiae</i> (Gouldian Finch)
Prof Kingsley Dixon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received research grants from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alcoa ○ BHP Billiton Iron Ore ○ BMP Oceania P/L ○ Mitsui & Co (Australia) ○ Fortescue Metals Group ○ Karara ○ Sinosteel Metals Corporation ○ Polaris ○ Cliffs ○ Grange resources ○ Iuka Resources ○ Rocla Quarry Products ○ Shark Bay Resources ○ Urban Resources ○ Jandakot Airport Holdings ○ Mineral Resources Pty Ltd ○ Cliffs Pty Ltd ○ Nifty Copper — Birla ○ Wavelength Nominees • Urban Resources has purchased a covenant from Prof Dixon for some property for the protection of Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat • Conducting research for Perth to Darwin Highway Project • Member of a Project Control Group for Newmont Mining — Boddington Gold project • Member of the Western Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee (WATSSC) • Federal committee member of the Alligator Rivers Research and Technical Committee (ARRTC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner of Lotteries Commission of Western Australia (Lotterywest)
Prof Richard Harper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No relevant pecuniary interests
Prof David Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No relevant pecuniary interests
Dr David Kendal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project leader for NESP Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub • Research consultancies with the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne • Contract with the Glenelg-Hopkins and Corangamite CMAs
Prof Sarah Legge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributor to <i>The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012</i> • Member of Birdlife Australia Threatened Species Committee • Funding recipient, Deputy Director and project leader for NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub • Paid by the Australian National University, with Prof David Lindenmayer as a supervisor • Member of IUCN Monotreme and Marsupial Specialist Group • Member of the Conservation and Science Advisory Committee of Bush Heritage Australia • Member of the National Academy of Science's National Committee for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation • Member of the Christmas Island Cat Eradication Project Advisory Committee • Member of the Australian Government's Feral Cat Taskforce • Member of Qld government's review panel for the Adani Black-throated Finch Mangement Plan • Member of scientific advisory group for Yawuru IPA (receives IPA funding) • Member of the Wild Deserts Scientific Advisory Committee (receives funding from NSW gov) • Member of the Governance Group for the Biosecurity Qld's feral cat management project • Board member of Wandiyali Restoration Trust (receives funding from the Commonwealth government) • Member of the Long-term Research Working Group of the Ecosystem Science Council • Contracted by Rangelands NRM to provide technical advce to the Dampier Fire project • Contracted by OTSC/DoEE to contribute to Year 3 report of the TSS • Contracted by NSW government to act as expert witness in a matter involving impacts of pet cats in suburban development
Dr Nicki Mitchell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding recipient and project leader for NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub • BHP is funding a PhD student's sea turtle research in the Ningaloo World Heritage Area • Member of the IUCN Skink Specialist Group • Member of the Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Team
Prof Colin Simpfendorfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding recipient of NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub • Receives Departmental funding for work on sharks • Funding recipient from Wildlife Conservation Society for research related to shark conservation • Funding recipient from Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission for research on priorities for shark life histories of exploited species • Co-Chair of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group • Member of the Queensland Shark Control Program's Scientific Working Group