

PROCEDURE STATEMENT FOR TRANSLOCATION OF THREATENED NATIVE FAUNA IN VICTORIA

Endorsed by:

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26 April 2016

Part 1: Introduction

The translocation of threatened fauna is an important conservation technique. For some threatened fauna, it offers the only method to prevent their extinction or to establish new populations. It is also an important tool to help accelerate recovery programs or re-colonisation of suitable habitat by threatened taxa.

However, translocation programs need to be carefully planned, implemented, monitored and documented to ensure they have the highest chance of success and to maximise their contribution to conservation.

Purpose

This Statement provides a clear decision-making and administrative framework for proposals to translocate threatened fauna in Victoria. It establishes a process to assess the impacts and benefits of such activities, and to provide clear scientific advice on whether authorisations to translocate should be issued.

It is consistent with *the IUCN position statement on translocation of living organisms* and the *2013 IUCN guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations*.

Scope

This Statement applies to translocations of threatened native fauna into, out of or within Victoria for the purposes of biodiversity conservation or scientific research, and includes all wild to wild, captive to wild and wild to captive movements (irrespective of whether the fauna is to be retained permanently or temporarily at captive facilities).

The Statement is applicable to all government and non-government (including not-for-profit) individuals or organisations wishing to translocate threatened fauna.

It applies to:

- vertebrate fauna that are native to Australia and are:
 - listed¹ under Section 10 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG)
 - included on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) *Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria – 2013*² (*Advisory List*)
 - listed under the EPBC Act and included on other States' lists of threatened species
- any terrestrial invertebrate animal which is listed

under Section 10 of the FFG Act and includes individuals, groups or populations of such fauna.

It does not include:

- fish within the meaning of the *Fisheries Act 1995*
- non-threatened fauna i.e. fauna that is not threatened wildlife within the meaning of the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Wildlife Act), or is not included on the *Advisory List*
- non-terrestrial invertebrates
- terrestrial invertebrates that are not FFG-listed
- captive threatened fauna moved between licensed wildlife collections, zoos, wildlife parks or animal exhibitions
- threatened fauna moved by authorised 'scaring' programs undertaken by primary producers or government agencies for the purposes of asset protection (e.g. noise-makers to frighten birds or bats away from orchards)
- transfer of sick, injured, orphaned or abandoned wildlife to or from wildlife shelters within Victoria, and return of rehabilitated wildlife to the location where it was found
- fauna not considered native to Australia, including domestic or feral animals.

Legislative power

Under Section 28A of the Wildlife Act, the Secretary of DELWP may authorise the taking, keeping and breeding of native wildlife, and the taking of samples from and marking and experimentation on native wildlife, provided that the authorisation is necessary for, among other things, conservation, protection, research and management.

Translocations may only be undertaken with an authorisation issued under the Wildlife Act, and when relevant, authorisations issued under the Victorian planning scheme, the *National Parks Act 1975* or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

For information on the EPBC referral process, go to: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/do-you-need-approval>.

All persons, including Department staff, involved in the handling or possession of threatened fauna must have the necessary authority, licence or permit.

¹ See the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Threatened List, at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/threatened-species-and-communities/flora-and-fauna-guarantee-act-1988/ffg-listed-taxa-communities-and-potentially-threatening-processes>

² See DELWP website, <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/threatened-species-and-communities/threatened-species-advisory-lists>

Definitions

Translocation means the deliberate human-assisted movement or removal of fauna from one locality and subsequent release to be at liberty either in the wild (including areas fenced or secured) or into captivity at another locality into, out of or within Victoria. Translocation includes the following types of movement:

- *Introduction*: the intentional dispersal by humans of threatened fauna outside its historically known native range
- *Re-introduction*: the movement of threatened fauna into a part of its known or presumed native range from which it has disappeared or become extirpated
- *Supplementation*: the addition of individuals to a population with the intent of increasing population size to increase genetic or demographic diversity. Supplementation has the same meaning as restocking or reinforcement for the purposes of this document and includes supplementation of captive populations from wild sources
- *Removal*: the movement of threatened fauna from places where they are threatening or perceived to be threatening human health and safety, amenity, built assets or natural or other values

- *Salvage* i.e. the movement of threatened fauna from places subject to habitat disturbance or loss or movement of threatened fauna into captivity in an effort to prevent the imminent extinction of a taxon
- *Experimental translocation* i.e. the movement of selected threatened fauna for research, such as development of captive breeding techniques
- *Emergency* i.e. unplanned or ad hoc translocation to a temporary or permanent holding location, triggered in response to events such as:
 - an environmental crisis e.g. flood, habitat damage caused by fire
 - unexpected occurrence of a disease/pathogen /predator, where that may result in extinction of the threatened taxon
 - or other event deemed by the TEP to be an emergency.

Translocation Plan means a written statement of intent to carry out a translocation into, out of or within Victoria, covering all matters set out in Appendix 1.

Translocation Evaluation Panel (TEP) means a panel of experts appointed by DELWP to provide advice to DELWP on Translocation Plans.

Part 2: Principles

DELWP will allow or undertake translocation of threatened fauna into, out of or within Victoria, for the purposes of biodiversity conservation or scientific research, provided that:

- the translocation will promote the protection and conservation of the taxon (as per the objectives of the Wildlife Act)
- the removal of individuals from a source population is unlikely to pose a risk to that population (except in the case of emergency translocations)
- the taxon being translocated is likely to have no adverse impact, including the spread of disease or parasites, upon other fauna at the release site
- the factors which caused the taxon's extinction or limited its abundance at the release site have been identified and solved or are being actively managed now and into the foreseeable future (except in the case of experimental translocations which may be designed to test such hypotheses)
- the release site is believed to have suitable and sufficient habitat and other resources for the survival of the taxon (except in the case of experimental translocations which may be designed to test such hypotheses).

Translocation of taxa to habitats or locations outside their known, historic or extrapolated natural range will not be approved unless there is an overriding conservation reason for so doing and that reason is supported by the TEP.

Translocation should not be used as a substitute for protection of high quality natural areas or conservation of wild populations *in situ*.

Part 3: Applying to translocate

This section describes the application process for authority to translocate threatened fauna in Victoria. A summary of the process is provided in Figure 2.

Step 1: Developing the proposal

As a first step, the applicant should consider the decision tree in Fig. 1 to determine whether or not the translocation should be attempted. The applicant must discuss the proposal with the relevant DELWP Regional Manager Environment and Natural Resources (RM) or delegate/s to seek their support. The region may be able to provide additional advice e.g.:

- whether the proposal aligns with regional, State or National priorities for threatened fauna management
- whether translocation is a priority action in the ABC database
- any other environmental information or authorisation requirements e.g. any limitations around burning regimes, conflicts with habitat requirements of other species, or issues with planned burning .

DELWP region/s will provide feedback to the applicant within 28 days. If a region has not replied by the end of this time regional in-principle agreement can be assumed.

The applicant must also discuss the proposal with the relevant land manager(s) (e.g. Parks Victoria, local council, landowner) and obtain written agreement for the proposed translocation of threatened fauna to or from land under their management responsibility.

(Note that for applications to translocate into or out of land managed by Parks Victoria, District Managers (who may need to consult with Parks Planning Division) are required to endorse translocation plans. Final approval, i.e. National Parks permits, is via the Parks Victoria CEO.)

If a DELWP region or the land manager do not support the Translocation Plan it does not progress to the TEP.

Note that unexpected³ salvage situations involving the movement of less than ten individual threatened fauna may be approved in writing by the relevant DELWP RM, and do not require assessment by the TEP. However, the applicant must provide to the RM proof that s/he has explored all other possible avenues to avoid the need for salvage.

Emergency translocations and emergency holdings of threatened fauna, to save a taxon from imminent extinction or for welfare purposes, may be approved by

³ Where a threatened taxon is found following pre-planning of a major project, and within the known or predicted range of that taxon, salvage would **not** be regarded as 'unexpected'.

the Secretary's delegate while a Translocation Plan is prepared. All other translocations should be planned in accordance with the measures indicated above.

Proponents of major development projects that anticipate salvage and/or translocation as mitigation measures will also be required to develop a Translocation Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary's delegate, as a condition of approval.

Step 2: Developing the Translocation Plan

Once a translocation proposal has in-principle agreement from the DELWP RM or delegate, and the relevant land manager(s), the applicant is responsible for preparing and submitting a Translocation Plan (using the template in Appendix 1).

If further information is required by the TEP or the Secretary's delegate, it is the responsibility of the translocation applicant to provide this information at their own cost.

The Translocation Plan must be consistent with the requirements detailed in Appendix 1 and provide sufficient information about the taxon and the proposed translocation for an informed decision to be made whether to approve or reject the proposal. It should review relevant knowledge about the taxon's biology and ecology, its past and present distribution and conservation status, and the urgency of action. Information presented should be supported by references or data. Opinions expressed about aspects of the taxon's conservation biology should be clearly identified as such.

All Translocation Plans must include:

- a full risk assessment of all aspects of the translocation
- how identified risks will be managed and/or addressed
- a resourced monitoring program to assess the techniques used and the outcomes of the translocation
- written evidence of support for the proposed translocation from the relevant DELWP region/s
- written evidence of support from the land manager

and may also need to include:

- approval by a properly constituted Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee
- certificates of animal health
- declarations from relevant veterinary authorities.

The requirements for animal ethics approvals are regulated by the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*. To determine whether you require ethics approval, please refer to the webpage of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR):

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/animal-health-and-welfare/animals-used-in-research-and-teaching/licensing/activities-requiring-a-license>.

This page describes the types of research activities that require a “scientific procedures” licence. Forms can be downloaded from:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/animal-health-and-welfare/animals-used-in-research-and-teaching/forms>.

The Translocation Plan must show that the translocation is part of an overall plan to manage the conservation of the taxon concerned, and that the risks will not compromise the taxon’s conservation.

The action to translocate and the results of the translocation must be included in the Actions for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) system by regional DELWP staff. In the case of emergency salvage or transfers, the action may be added to ABC as soon as possible after the event.

Step 3: Submitting the Translocation Plan

The completed Translocation Plan can be submitted to the TEP at:

Fauna Translocation Evaluation Panel
c/o Biodiversity Regulation
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 2, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Or biodiversity.regulation@delwp.vic.gov.au

The application must be received by the TEP no fewer than two weeks before the date of the next TEP meeting. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

At the same time, the applicant should also submit applications for a Wildlife Act research permit, National Parks Act or EPBC Act permits, to allow sufficient time for processing.

If the proponent requires emergency assessment he/she must justify the nature of the emergency. A deadline for development is **not** regarded as an emergency.

Step 4: TEP assesses Plan on merit

The TEP will assess each Translocation Plan to ensure that:

- it includes all relevant information as detailed in Appendix 1
- it is consistent with the principles outlined in this Statement
- it will not compromise the welfare of the individual animals, e.g.
 - harm to individuals during collection, transport and handling
 - behaviour impacts during temporary captivity
- risks to the **source** population have been fully considered e.g.
 - risks to the taxon by removal of animals from the source population, by:
 - removal of genetic material
 - disturbance impacts to remaining individuals
- risks at the **recipient** site have been fully considered e.g.
 - habitat related risks:
 - risk of translocation failure because the factors that caused the initial loss or decline of the taxon have not been understood or addressed
 - harm at the release site caused by predators or competitors
 - harm at the release site caused by parasites, pathogens or disease
 - inability of founders to find suitable resources at release site
 - risks to the translocated animals and/or conspecifics at the release site, as a result of genetic risks e.g. founder effects, inbreeding or outbreeding depression, or genetic swamping
 - risks to other taxa at the release site, both plants and animals
 - hygiene related risks i.e. introduction of pest plants or animals via transportation of the translocated taxon
 - risks to the protection of the site i.e.
 - failure to exclude predators
 - failure to keep the translocated animals at the site
 - impacts on the translocated animals of incompatible land management activities
- appropriate project management has been considered i.e.
 - the necessary long-term timeframe required in both personnel and finances to support and

evaluate the translocation has been acknowledged and accounted for

- key stakeholders and, where relevant, recovery teams and key experts, have been consulted, including with respect to both source and release locations
- a monitoring and evaluation program is in place to track and assess the program's success and the effectiveness of management strategies applied, with clear short- and long-term criteria for success outlined
- a contingency plan has been prepared and can be enacted if early losses occur, targets are not met or if the translocation has unintended negative effects
- the proposal is feasible and workable.

If a Translocation Plan is not complete or provides insufficient information, the applicant will be notified and requested to provide more detail, with all amendments to the Translocation Plan clearly identified.

The TEP will provide a recommendation on the Translocation Plan within six weeks of the date of the TEP meeting. This will include time taken to request and receive further advice or amendment from the proponent.

Step 5: TEP advises DELWP

The TEP provides advice to the Secretary's delegate regarding its view of the proposal.

The TEP Executive Officer will provide a brief for the Secretary's delegate (usually the relevant RM) and endorsed by the delegate of the Executive Director, Biodiversity Division, summarising the proposal and identifying any issues.

Step 6: DELWP assesses the proposal

Before making a decision, the Secretary's delegate will consider the advice of the TEP and confirm that the proposal is consistent with regional priorities for threatened fauna management. The Secretary's delegate will also confirm that the support of the land manager(s) has been granted.

DELWP will notify the translocation applicant of the decision in writing.

Step 7: DELWP issues authorisations

Once the Translocation Plan has been approved by the Secretary's delegate, an authorisation under the Wildlife Act will be prepared by the Environmental Research Coordinator.

The Wildlife authorisation will be approved by the Secretary's delegate i.e. Regional Directors, Operations Directors, or RMs. Usually this is the responsibility of the RM of the region into which the taxon is being translocated.

Where further authorisations are required (e.g. National Parks or EPBC Act) the DELWP Biodiversity Regulation section will advise the applicant to apply.

Step 8: Implementation

Upon receipt of the Wildlife Act authorisation (and other relevant authorisations), the applicant may commence the translocation in accordance with their Translocation Plan and any other conditions of the authorisation.

Provision of reports on the progress and outcomes of the translocation, as stated in the Translocation Plan, will be a condition of the wildlife permit. Copies of reports submitted to the TEP will also be forwarded to relevant DELWP regions and Recovery Teams.

Figure 1: Decision Tree for Translocation of Threatened Native Fauna

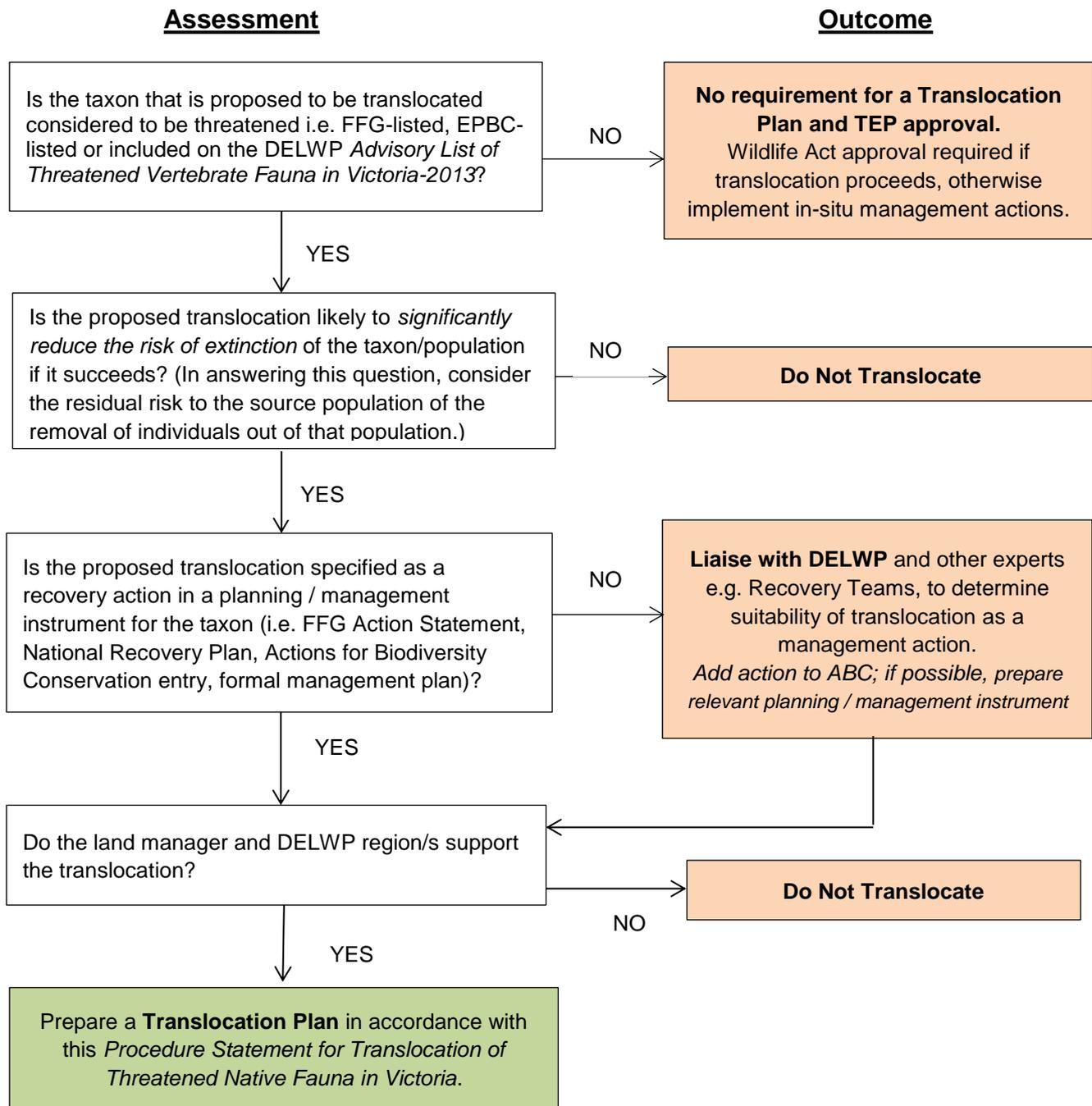
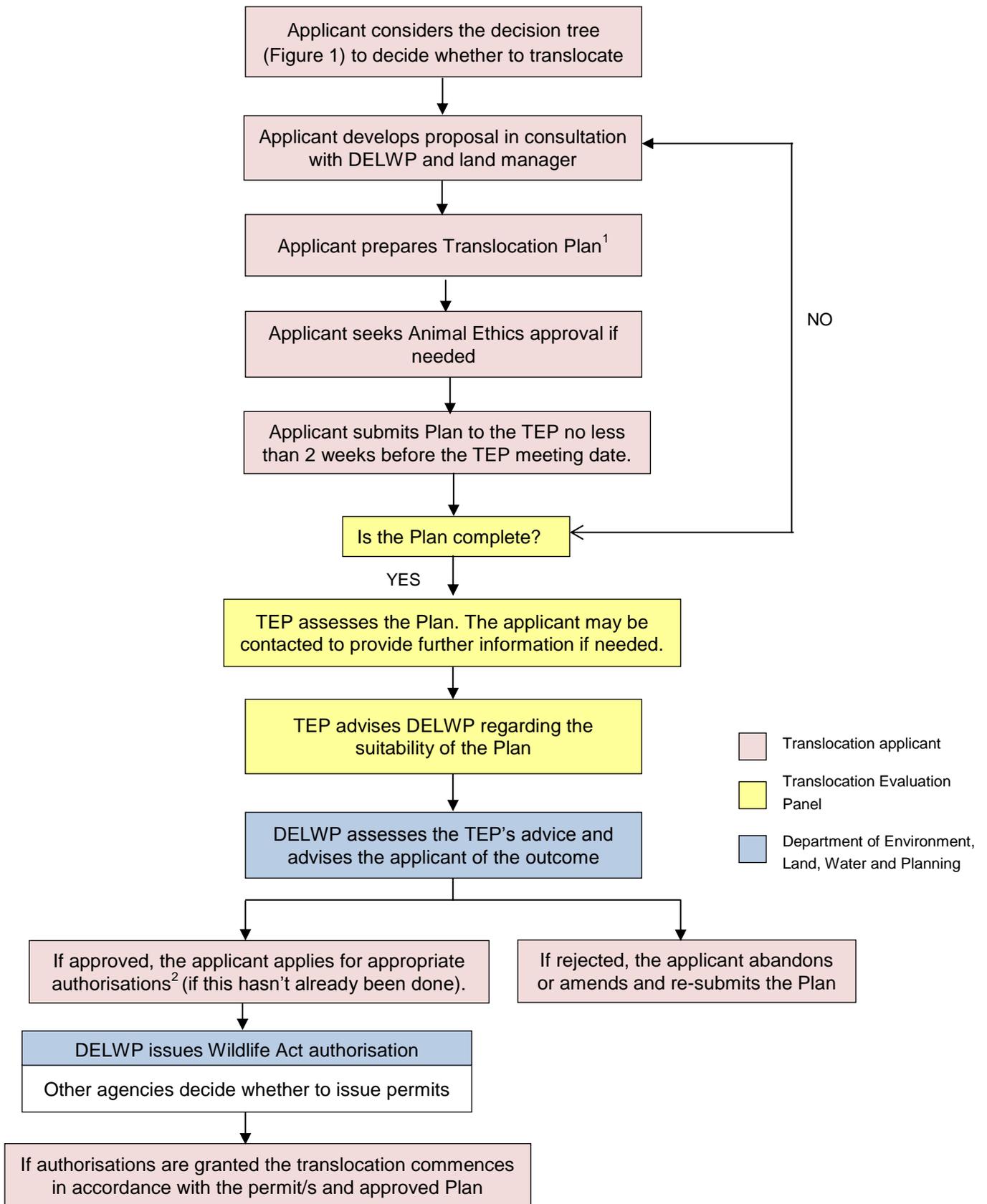


Figure 2: Summary of the application process for authority to translocate threatened native fauna in Victoria



1 – As per the template in Appendix 1 of this Procedure Statement.

2 – Wildlife Act authorisation and other relevant applications e.g. National Parks.

Appendix 1:

THREATENED NATIVE FAUNA

Translocation Plan Template and Instructions

The following provides a template of a Translocation Plan. Instructions for each field are included in blue text. The instructions should be removed before completing the Plan.

Please be brief and to the point. If you provide information in one section and it is requested in another, please cross-reference rather than repeating the information. If you have any queries about the quality or quantity of the information you are asked to provide, please contact the TEP Chair.

Before completing the template, ensure that you have consulted with and received the written support of the relevant DELWP region and the land manager.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1	Project Title	Provide a concise title for the translocation proposal
1.2	Taxon to be translocated	Common and scientific name of taxon/a to be translocated
1.3	Number of animals to be translocated	Target number of animals expected to be translocated over the life of the project (provide details in 5.2).
1.4	Proposed date of translocation	List the expected commencement and conclusion dates (provide details in 5.1).
1.5	Source location or captive facility	State the name and location of the source location or captive facility (include a map reference or GPS coordinates).
1.6	Release location or captive facility	State the name and location of the release location or captive facility (include a map reference or GPS coordinates).
1.8	Name of contact person	Provide contact details of the team member who will be the contact point for DELWP in relation to the Translocation Plan and the translocation itself.
1.7	Name and Affiliation of Proponents	List the team members and provide their address details and information on their skills/experience relevant to this translocation (including experts contacted for advice).
1.9	Nature of the Translocation	State whether the translocation is a: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Introduction</i> (i.e. the intentional dispersal by humans of threatened fauna outside its historically known native range)▪ <i>Re-introduction</i> (i.e. the movement of threatened fauna into a part of its known or presumed native range from which it has disappeared or become extirpated in historic times)▪ <i>Supplementation</i> (i.e. the addition of individuals to a population with the intent of building up their number or to increase genetic or demographic diversity)▪ <i>Removal</i> (i.e. the movement of threatened fauna from places where they are threatening human health and safety, amenity, built assets or natural or other values)▪ <i>Salvage</i> (i.e. the movement of threatened fauna from places subject to habitat disturbance or loss)▪ <i>Experimental translocations</i> (i.e. the translocation of selected threatened fauna for research). If this is an emergency translocation, state the nature of the emergency.
1.10	Executive Summary	Briefly outline the key points relating to the translocation proposal. Describe whether the translocation is for one release, or several over time (max. 150 words).

2. JUSTIFICATION

2.1	Need And Appropriateness	State the purpose of the proposal and outline the benefits to the taxon as a whole. Explain why this taxon/population needs to be translocated (i.e. state the problem you are trying to fix). In the case of a salvage translocation, explain the reason e.g. site is subject to development. What are the likely consequences of not proceeding with the proposed translocation?
2.2	Context	Briefly list any additional background information. Include wider context (e.g. this proposal is one of several transfers for this taxon).

2.3	Conservation Outcome(s)	<p>State the conservation outcome(s) for the project.</p> <p>This is the longer-term 'end state' you are looking to achieve at the release site or for the taxon covered by this project.</p> <p>How does this relate to longer-term targets for the taxon at other sites?</p> <p>In the case of a salvage translocation, state the long-term goal for the salvaged animals and how they will contribute to a self-sustaining, demographically functional population.</p>
2.4	Research Objective(s)	<p>State the research objectives.</p> <p>If needed, state what aspects of the design of your translocation will allow for elucidation of key elements of translocations (i.e. what will be learnt from your translocation?)</p>
2.5	Restrict Options	<p>Comment on whether the translocation will restrict options for introducing other individuals or taxa in the future (e.g. if the translocation fails, there will not be enough wild individuals for future translocations).</p>

3. THE THREATENED TAXON

3.1	Conservation Status	<p>List the taxon's current conservation status under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DELWP Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria - 2013 ▪ DELWP Advisory List of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna in Victoria - 2009 ▪ State legislation: <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> ▪ Federal legislation: EPBC Act 1999
3.2	Taxonomy	Taxonomy (genus, species and subspecies level only)
3.3	Historical and Current Distribution	Include maps where applicable as an Appendix.
3.4	Biology and Ecology	<p>You can use excerpts from other documents/sources e.g. summarise from Recovery Plans/Action Statements, or use data from the EPBC SPRAT profile.</p> <p>Provide a brief overview of aspects of the taxon's biology that are relevant to the translocation e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ habitat requirements – food, water, shelter, drought/flood/fire/predator refuge. ▪ reproduction ▪ social units ▪ longevity ▪ home range ▪ dispersal – comment on whether the taxon is likely to disperse from the release location ▪ minimum area required to support a viable population. <p>If any of the above information is already cited in other sources e.g. Recovery Plans or other readily available references, refer to those in preference to re-stating the information here.</p>
3.5	Documented Recovery Actions	<p>Confirm whether the action to translocate is included within a species or community Action Statement or Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Where an Action Statement or Recovery Plan is yet to be prepared, outline how the translocation is part of an overall plan that will benefit the conservation of the taxon concerned.</p> <p>Confirm that the action to translocate will be included in the Actions for Biodiversity Conservation system if it is not already.</p>
3.6	Pressures/Threats	<p>You can use excerpts from other documents/sources e.g. summarise from Recovery Plans/Action Statements, or use data from the EPBC SPRAT profile.</p> <p>Outline known factors contributing to the taxon's original decline or that could risk the success of the translocation. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ habitat degradation/fragmentation ▪ predation (introduced and native) ▪ abiotic conditions (fire, flood, drought, storm, etc.) ▪ disease
3.7	Demographics	<p>How many populations/individuals are known to exist in the wild and in captivity?</p> <p>Where are they located or known to occur?</p> <p>Estimate what percent of the overall population you dealing with in this project.</p> <p>Describe recent population trends if known.</p>
3.8	Source Population Details	<p>Details of source population (include, as needed, genetics, history, geography, numbers and screening for disease/parasites where known).</p> <p>Specify which population has been selected and why this source is the most appropriate e.g.:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ geographically closest to the release site ▪ only source available ▪ ecologically or genetically most suitable ▪ legal status ▪ most accessible. <p>Where a taxon is transferred from captivity, state the wild origin of the captive stock if known. Where the wild origin of a captive population is not known, state this.</p>
3.9	Captive Population	<p>If the taxon is being moved into a captive facility, state if a captive population of this taxon already exists.</p> <p>If 'NO', justify why a new captive population or breeding population of the taxon should be established.</p> <p>State the long-term plans for the translocated individuals and offspring.</p> <p>Outline the quarantine procedures.</p>

4. THE RELEASE SITE

4.1	Description of release site	<p>Describe the release site. Include factors relevant to the translocation e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ access ▪ habitat types ▪ area ▪ ecological communities present (flora and fauna) ▪ existing biodiversity values ▪ fire risk assessment (history and zoning)
4.2	Alignment with historic or current distribution	<p>State whether the release site is within or outside the known historic or current distribution of the taxon. Evidence that the taxon once occurred at the proposed site is not required if the taxon is being moved into a captive facility.</p> <p>If outside the known or extrapolated natural range, provide further justification as to the conservation reason for the translocation.</p>
4.3	Description of Facilities	<p>If the taxon is being moved into a captive facility, soft release or semi-captive situation, briefly describe the facilities. If the facility has been purpose-built for the taxon, identify the name and place. Only provide further details if relevant,</p> <p>Detail if supplementary feeding is required and how this will be done.</p>
4.4	Current Land Use, Tenure and Management	<p>Describe the details of the current land use, its tenure, its security for ongoing conservation and how it is being managed.</p> <p>Include written evidence of agreement of controlling body or owner as an Appendix.</p>
4.5	Ecological Requirements	<p>Describe how the release location meets the known ecological requirements of the translocated taxon. Identify specific site selection criteria e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • availability of reliable, suitable food sources • minimal presence of other aggressive and competitive species or potential predators • presence of essential breeding habitat features (such as tree hollows) • presence of wild individuals, <p>Include an estimate of the area required for a self sustaining population.</p> <p>State whether the release location can support a self-sustaining population (not required if the release location is being used as a temporary holding area).</p> <p>For wild-to-captive translocations or those involving a temporary holding area, describe how the basic ecological requirements, e.g. food, water and shelter, will be met while animals are in the holding area.</p> <p>Detail any necessary site preparations.</p>
4.6	Land Management Implications	<p>Document the implications of the release for the immediate and longer-term management of the site.</p> <p>Consideration should include any land management prescriptions that apply to the taxon, and habitat management requirements such as predator control, fire management, visitor management, restrictions on timber harvesting etc.</p>

5. THE TRANSLOCATION

5.1	Timeline	<p>Outline when the translocation/s will take place, including timelines of multiple releases. Include rationale for the timeline (i.e. seasonality, weather, food resources, fire risk, flood risk, time for site preparation, population dynamics).</p> <p>Detail when the proposed translocation is likely to be concluded.</p>
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		In the case of an emergency translocation that has already occurred, note when the translocation took place.
5.2	Translocation Individuals	<p>Describe the composition of the transfer population and the number and timing (including time of year) of transfers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ age ▪ sex ratio ▪ singles/pairs/coteries/colonies ▪ number of individuals. <p>Explain why this composition was chosen. Comment how it is likely to produce a viable population, either from this translocation or combined with subsequent translocations.</p> <p>If more than one transfer is required, describe the composition of the transfer population for each transfer separately.</p>
5.3	Previous Work/Literature	<p>Comment on whether the taxon (or similar taxa) has ever been translocated before.</p> <p>If 'YES', briefly describe the techniques used and what was learned. List the reference and summarise what monitoring was undertaken and the criteria used to determine success or failure.</p>
5.4	Risks and risk management	<p><i>Risks to the taxon arising from the translocation</i></p> <p>Comment on the risks associated with the proposed translocation and what will be done about these risks. Risks to consider include those associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal welfare (i.e. injuries or distress to fauna). • Risks to the taxon as a whole e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing the number of individuals in existence if the translocation fails. ○ removal of genetic material. ○ disturbance impacts to remaining individuals. ○ behaviour impacts during temporary captivity. ○ harm to individuals during collection, transport and handling. <p><i>For captive-to-wild translocations:</i></p> <p>Consider the taxon's ability to survive in the wild, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet in captivity may affect body size, dental and cranial abnormalities, teeth and cranial muscle development, gut morphology (especially in birds). • Physiology – specific traits can be affected by time in captivity, which can affect ability of individuals to survive in the wild (e.g. feather-tailed gliders not entering torpor in the same way as wild types). • Presence of wild conspecifics. Captive-bred animals might have a positive benefit e.g. genetic variation, reproductive behaviour, or negative e.g. competition. <p><i>For wild-to-captive translocations:</i></p> <p>Comment on the effect of removing the transfer individuals on the source population, including any demographic or genetic effects and whether the removal will affect the viability of the source population.</p> <p><i>Risks at the release site</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document how the risks that contributed to the taxon's decline elsewhere (3.6) have been removed or ameliorated at the recipient site. If you cannot control all threats at the recipient site, please state why. • Genetic risks such as founder effects, inbreeding depression, outbreeding depression, or genetic swamping. • Disease/Pathogen introduction by or to the translocated individuals. Comment on whether pathogens (or strains of pathogens) in the source population are also found at the release location. List the disease screening tests that have been undertaken and will be carried out to determine whether the pathogens found in the source population are already present in the release location. • For isolated populations (e.g. from island or captive populations, long term exposure to different habitats, predators or pathogens), consider ability to survive in the wild; is behavioural training and acclimatisation (i.e. hardening) needed? • The taxon's ability to adapt to change. • Risks to the translocated animals from predators, competitors, parasites, diseases or pathogens at the release site. • Territorial issues (i.e. for large translocations, there may be competition between the individuals for resources). • Risks to local competitors and/or prey taxa. • Introduction of weeds and pests. Comment on what has been done to minimise the risk of introducing pests to the translocation site. If nothing, explain why not.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Displacement of other taxa or otherwise influencing the structure and composition of the community through competition. Risks to threatened plant taxa at the site e.g. from herbivory or digging Disruption of ecological processes by the activity within and the accessing of the site (e.g. soil disturbance leading to weed infestations, fence installation changing home ranges, vehicle access transporting weed seeds or pathogens). <p><i>Site security and protection</i></p> <p>State how the protection and security of the site will be managed e.g. consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fencing to exclude predators fencing to keep the translocated animals at the release site impacts on the translocated animals of incompatible land management activities Potential fire issues e.g. is the site on a DELWP Fire Operations Plan? <p><i>If to an island:</i></p> <p>Provide a risk assessment that the proposed translocation is unlikely to have a detrimental effect on the existing flora and fauna values of that island and that future population management will not be required.</p> <p><i>If from an island to mainland</i></p> <p>Provide a risk assessment confirming that the translocation is unlikely to have a detrimental effect on the flora and fauna values of the specified mainland locality.</p> <p>Socio-economic Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of impacts on infrastructure (e.g. roads, houses) and industry (e.g. agriculture). Especially by burrowing, digging, or herbivorous taxa.
5.5	Capture methods	Ensure you cover the provisions made to minimise stress/maximise the welfare of the transferred taxon.
5.6	Health assessments	Document the criteria and the process and responsibilities for treating or euthanasing animals injured or stressed during the translocation. Describe how animal welfare will be affected and stress minimised. Outline veterinary arrangements. If any deaths occur throughout translocation (or while otherwise in captivity), will the carcasses be sent to a museum to add to scientific collections?
5.7	Transportation	Provide detailed description of methods and materials, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cages vehicles personnel and their relevant skills stress minimisation techniques (e.g. specify length of time held in cages).
5.8	Release / Tracking methods	Provide detailed description of methods and materials, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessment of hard release versus soft release options feeding shelter radio transmitters or other implemented or fitted technologies other forms of individual identification (e.g. tagging, tattoos, ear punches, toe clipping, PIT tags, VIA tags, shell notching).
5.9	Genetics	Will genetic samples (tissue and/or blood) be taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all animals to be translocated; or a cross section of total population? <p>If not, justify.</p> <p>Please note that any proposal to sample for genetics requires AEC approval.</p> <p>State the nature of the samples, the sampling technique, and location where the samples will be stored.</p>

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

6.1	Long-term Commitment	Translocations require ongoing funds, personnel and resources, long after the actual translocation has taken place. Please document and demonstrate the long-term staff and funding commitment and the ability to resource contingency plans, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> length of contracts/tenure of all team members strategies for managing change of personnel (e.g. hand-over of information, training)
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ strategies to ensure on-going funding.
6.2	Monitoring Program	<p>Outline the monitoring program for both the source <u>and</u> release populations and locations. Monitoring must be adequate to measure the success of the translocation and must relate back to the indicators of success and conservation outcome(s). Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ what will be monitored ▪ methods (direct versus indirect methods) ▪ when/how often ▪ the duration of the monitoring program.
6.3	Indicators of Success	<p>Key indicators of success, or operational targets, should be established for both short- (<12 months or otherwise stated) and long-term time frames (>12 months). They will vary from taxon-to-taxon, location-to-location, and project-to-project.</p> <p>Outline the key indicators of success and failure at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ both the source and release sites; and ▪ in the short- and long-term. <p>Define these indicators in terms of factors such as persistence of sufficient individuals over pre-determined timeframes, multi-season breeding and recruitment, maintenance of demographic processes, persistence through fire/drought cycles.</p> <p>Indicators should be <i>SMART goals</i>: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Result- orientated, and Timed.</p> <p>If more than one release is planned, specify the indications of success that must be reached before subsequent releases occur. Indicators can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Body weights and body condition; ▪ Survival rates, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 80% of original population surviving after 30 days; ○ mean survivorship to 11 months post release, as estimated from mark-recapture data, to exceed 10% across three releases ▪ Breeding success or birth and recruitment, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ F1 breeding within 12 months ○ F2 breeding within 2 years ○ > 30% of females reproduce ▪ Population estimates, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50% increase in population within 3 years ○ N ≥ 250 and population persists for at least 5 years ○ at least 9 self-sustaining populations ▪ Indices of abundance e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ average daily trap success of 7.5% ○ sighting rate of 1-5 per 100 km ▪ Distribution, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ population of ≥ x spread over ≥ y hectares or z km² ▪ Dispersal, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – number of individuals dispersing from natal colony
6.4	Ongoing and Long-term Management	<p>Outline how decisions will be made through time, and who will be in charge of those decisions. Include (where appropriate):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ management at the release location to ensure the population establishes successfully ▪ population management if high population density occurs ▪ management of the source population to ensure it recovers from having individuals removed.
6.5	Contingency Plan	<p>Outline the contingency plan to be followed if early losses occur or targets are not met, and how that plan will be enacted.</p> <p>An exit strategy should detail what will occur if the program fails to meet its objective, where current desirable management cannot be maintained, where the negative effects of the translocation become unacceptable or where targets are not being met.</p> <p>Clearly state factors that will trigger an exit strategy e.g. loss of funding, unacceptable losses of animals.</p> <p>Detail actions if all the translocated animals leave the release site or cannot be found.</p> <p>Identify potential to provide resources to manage alternative outcomes.</p>
6.6	Reporting and Publications	<p>There are two distinct reporting phases that should be observed, for both the source and release populations.</p> <p>One is immediately post-release, to finalise the transfer phase and debrief relevant people on</p>

		<p>how it went, and to record and evaluate the transfer for future reference and improvement by lessons learned in the process.</p> <p>The second is an ongoing report, to record and evaluate what is monitored (at least annually, more frequently in early years) and to inform relevant parties about progress and any issues that arise.</p> <p>Copies of both post-release and longer term reports must be sent to the TEP.</p> <p>Submission of results in peer-reviewed journals is encouraged to promote widespread access to translocation information. Failing that, public accessible information pages should be produced for publication (e.g. on the world wide web).</p> <p>State the commitment and intent for publication of this project.</p>
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7. FUNDING AND RESOURCES

7.1	Sources	Outline all sources of funding or proposed funding, both real and in-kind. Include confirmation of funding as an Appendix.																																																					
7.2	Resources Required	All actions should be scoped and budgeted for the life of the project. Identify the source(s) of funding or proposed funding. Use the format below for recording expected costs. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post translocation management for the duration of the project. Take account of hours and costs at both the source and release locations. 																																																					
7.3	Budget	<p>As per the following example:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Item description</th> <th colspan="2">Year 1</th> <th colspan="2">Year 2</th> <th colspan="2">Year 3</th> <th colspan="2">Ongoing</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Source</th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Source</th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Source</th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Source</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For the item description, please list all specific items required (please include staff time, in-kind resources and equipment costs). Please indicate the source or proposed source of funding for all items.</p> <p>Where funding is only confirmed for one year, detail the annual budget, and provide projected costs for subsequent years and sources of likely or potential funding.</p> <p>If an ongoing program is essential for the success for this translocation (e.g. predator control) identify this and the funding/resource commitments.</p>	Item description	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Ongoing		Budget	Source	Budget	Source	Budget	Source	Budget	Source																												TOTAL	\$		\$		\$		\$	
Item description	Year 1			Year 2		Year 3		Ongoing																																															
	Budget	Source	Budget	Source	Budget	Source	Budget	Source																																															
TOTAL	\$		\$		\$		\$																																																

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8. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

8.1	Affected and Interested Parties	<p>List all affected and interested parties. (Can be attached as an Appendix.)</p> <p>Note that if the translocation is an activity covered by a Land Use Activity Agreement (i.e. an Agreement that provides Traditional Owners with a role in decision making in relation to land use activities on some areas of Crown land), consultation with Traditional Owners may be mandated by agreement or legislation.</p>
8.2	Public Relations and Participation	<p>Briefly describe the communication strategies, the communication process undertaken with affected and interested parties and their response.</p> <p>Consider likely social and economic costs and benefits of the project e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cultural benefits and significance for indigenous people funding opportunities for charismatic taxa public relations issues for uncharismatic or seemingly unwelcome taxa use of volunteers ecotourism significance. <p>List and comment on the key PR implications (positive and negative).</p> <p>Briefly state how the issues/PR implications are going to be managed and by whom.</p> <p>Identify likely resistance to the proposal and how this will be managed.</p> <p>If public participation is desirable, list the opportunities provided by this project. If there are confidentiality or site security issues, state them.</p> <p>Briefly state how the opportunities will be delivered.</p>
8.3	Stakeholders' Endorsements	List endorsements from all stakeholders. Including relevant DELWP staff and land managers.

9. REFERENCES

Bibliography of references used to produce the Plan.

10. APPENDICES

Can include, but not limited to:

- DELWP Regional approval
- Written evidence of support from land holder/manager
- Recovery Plan for the taxon.
- Maps of distribution, project area, habitats.
- Taxa lists for the location.
- Funding approvals.
- Covenants.
- Contacts for Indigenous communities.
- Contact details for Affected and Interested Parties..

11. PERMITS

Permits	State whether authorisations and other approvals have been applied for, and the status or outcome of the applications. Particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorisations under the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i> (including research permits where applicable)• Animal ethics approvals• Permits under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i>.• Permits under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> Attach a copy of approval or application if available.
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12. SIGNATURE(S)

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Proponents	
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Appendix 2 DELWP offices

DELWP Port Phillip

Regional Manager, Environment and Natural Resources
609 Burwood Highway
Knoxfield, Victoria, 3180
Phone: (03) 9210 9222

DELWP Barwon South West (South West)

Regional Manager, Environment and Natural Resources
Cnr Fenwick & Little Malop Streets
Geelong VIC 3220
(03) 5226 4667

DELWP Grampians (South West)

Regional Manager, Environment and Natural Resources
402-406 Mair Street,
Ballarat VIC 3350
Ph. (03) 5336 6856

DELWP Loddon Mallee (North West)

Regional Manager, Environment and Natural Resources
Cnr Midland Highway and Taylor Street
Bendigo VIC 3550
(03) 5430 4444

DELWP Hume (North East)

Regional Manager, Environment and Natural Resources
89 Sydney Road
Benalla, VIC 3672
(03) 5761 1611

DELWP Gippsland

Regional Manager, Environment and Natural Resources
71 Hotham Street
Traralgon VIC 3844
(03) 5172 2111