**THREATENED NATIVE FAUNA**

**Translocation Proposal Template and Instructions**

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

**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 refer to a document attached as an appendix, please summarise the main point from the document in the relevant section of this proposal.

If you have any queries about the quality or quantity of the information you are asked to provide, please contact the TEP secretariat at [biodiversity.regulation@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:biodiversity.regulation@delwp.vic.gov.au).

**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

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| 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). |
| **1.7** | **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. |
| **1.8** | **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).  If the translocation is of a taxon with a Recovery Team, then the head of the Recovery Team should be listed as a proponent and identified as such. |
| **1.9** | **Nature of the Translocation** | State whether the translocation is a[[1]](#footnote-1):   * Population restoration (i.e. the translocation of threatened fauna within its indigenous range[[2]](#footnote-2)): * *Reinforcement/supplementation* (i.e. the intentional movement and release of threatened fauna into an existing population of conspecifics with the intent to enhance population viability, for instance by increasing population size, by increasing genetic diversity, or by increasing the representation of specific demographic groups or stages). * *Reintroduction* (i.e. the intentional movement and release of threatened fauna into a part of its indigenous range from which it has disappeared). * Introduction (i.e. the intentional movement and release of threatened fauna outside its indigenous range):   + *Assisted colonisation* (i.e. the intentional movement and release of threatened fauna outside its indigenous range to avoid extinction of populations).   + *Ecological replacement* (i.e. the intentional movement and release of threatened fauna outside its indigenous range to perform a specific ecological function). * *Removal* (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). * *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 translocations* (i.e. the translocation of selected threatened fauna for research). |
| **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). |

1. JUSTIFICATION

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| **2.1** | **Need And Appropriateness** | State the purpose of the proposal and outline the conservation 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. Explain how the subsequent release of salvaged animals will have a conservation benefit to the taxon and what the likely consequences of not proceeding with the proposed translocation are. |
| **2.2** | **Context** | Briefly list any additional background information. Include wider context (e.g. this proposal is one of several transfers for this taxon), and links to related actions in other states or territories. |
| **2.3** | **Conservation Outcome(s)** | State the conservation outcome(s) for the project.  This is the longer-term ‘end state’ you are looking to achieve at the release site or for the taxon covered by this project.  How does this relate to longer-term targets for the taxon at other sites?  How does this project relate to the overall recovery objective for the taxon?  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. |
| **2.4** | **Research Objective(s)** | If this is a research project, state the research objectives and how these will be met by the proposed translocation. |
| **2.5** | **Restrict Options** | Comment on whether the translocation will restrict options for future flora and fauna management at the source site and the release site. |

1. THE THREATENED TAXON

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| 3.1 | Conservation Status | List the taxon’s current conservation status under:   * DELWP Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria - 2013 * DELWP Advisory List of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna in Victoria - 2009 * State legislation: [*Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 19*](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/consol_act/npawa1972247/)*88* (FFG Act) * Federal legislation: [*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*](http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna)(EPBC Act) |
| 3.2 | Historical and Current Distribution | Include maps where applicable as an Appendix. |
| 3.3 | Biology and Ecology | You can use excerpts from other documents/sources e.g. summarise from Recovery Plan/Action Statement/Conservation Advice, or use data from the EPBC SPRAT profile.  Provide a brief overview of aspects of the taxon’s biology that are relevant to the translocation e.g.:   * habitat requirements – food, water, shelter, drought/flood/fire/predator refuge. * reproduction * social units * relevant behavioural traits, such as territoriality or cannibalism * 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. |
| 3.4 | Documented Recovery Actions | Confirm whether the action to translocate is included within a species or community Action Statement, Recovery Plan or EPBC Act Conservation Advice  Where an Action Statement, Recovery Plan or Conservation Advice is yet to be prepared, outline how the translocation is part of an overall plan that will benefit the conservation of the taxon concerned. |
| 3.5 | Pressures/Threats | You can use excerpts from other documents/sources e.g. summarise from Recovery Plan/Action Statement/Conservation Advice, or use data from the EPBC SPRAT profile.  Outline known factors contributing to the taxon’s original decline or that could risk the success of the translocation. For example:   * habitat degradation/fragmentation * predation (introduced and native) * climate change * abiotic conditions (fire, flood, drought, storm, etc.) * disease * competition * exploitation by humans * inbreeding depression |
| 3.6 | **Populations** | How many populations/individuals are known to exist in the wild and in captivity?  Where are they located or known to occur?  Estimate what percent of the overall population you are dealing with in this project.  Describe recent population trends. |
| 3.7 | Source Population | Details of source population (include, as needed, genetics, history, geography, numbers and trends).  Specify which population has been selected and why this source is the most appropriate e.g.:   * geographically closest to the release site * only source available * ecologically or genetically most suitable * population trends of source population(s) * legal status * accessibility   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. Provide details of the ZAA status of the taxon, is it a managed species, is there a studbook and have these data been used to select founder individuals? |
| 3.8 | Establishing a captive or confined population (temporary or permanent) | If the taxon is being moved into a captive facility or into a fenced predator exclosure as a confined population, state if a captive or confined population of this taxon already exists.  State the long-term plans for the translocated individuals and offspring. |

1. THE RELEASE SITE

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| **4.1** | **Description of release site** | Describe the release site as related to the taxon under consideration and the proposed translocation. Include factors relevant to the translocation e.g.:   * access * habitat * area * ecological communities present (flora and fauna) * existing biodiversity values * fire risk assessment (history and zoning) |
| **4.2** | **Alignment with historic or current distribution** | State whether the release site is within or outside the estimated distribution of the taxon at the time of European occupation. Evidence that the taxon once occurred at the proposed site is not required if the taxon is being moved into a captive facility.  If outside the known or extrapolated natural range, i.e. an introduction is proposed, provide further justification as to the conservation reason for the translocation. |
| **4.3** | **Description of Facilities** | If the taxon is being moved into a captive facility, soft release or semi-captive situation, briefly describe the facilities, including their location.  Detail if supplementary feeding is required and how this will be done. |
| **4.4** | **Current Land Use, Tenure and Management** | Describe the details of the current land use, its tenure, its security for ongoing conservation and how it is being managed.  Include written evidence of agreement of controlling body or owner as an Appendix. |
| **4.5** | **Suitability of proposed release site** | Describe how the release location meets the known ecological requirements of the translocated taxon. Identify specific site selection criteria e.g.   * 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.   Include an estimate of the area required for a self-sustaining population (if known).  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).  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.  Detail any necessary site preparations. |
| **4.6** | **Land Management Implications** | Document the implications of the release for the immediate and longer-term management of the site, including possible restrictions on future land use and management.  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. |

5. THE TRANSLOCATION

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| **5.1** | **Timeline** | 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).  Detail when the proposed translocation is likely to be concluded.  In the case of an emergency translocation that has already occurred, note when the translocation took place. |
| **5.2** | **Translocation Individuals** | Describe the composition of the transfer population and the number and timing (including time of year) of transfers, including:   * age * sex ratio * singles/pairs/coteries/colonies * number of individuals * relatedness of individuals   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.  If more than one transfer is required, describe the composition of the transfer population for each transfer separately. |
| **5.3** | **Previous Work/Literature** | Comment on whether the taxon (or similar taxa) has ever been translocated before.  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. If any previous translocations have failed (or the outcomes are unknown), explain why you believe this project will succeed. |
| **5.4** | **Risks and risk management** | *Risks to the taxon arising from the translocation*  Comment on the risks associated with the proposed translocation and what will be done to minimise these risks. Risks to consider include those associated with:   * Animal welfare (i.e. injuries or distress to fauna). * Risks to the taxon as a whole e.g.   + 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.   *For captive-to-wild translocations:*  Consider the taxon’s ability to survive in the wild, i.e.:   * Diet in captivity may affect body size, dental and cranial abnormalities, teeth and cranial muscle development, gut morphology and flora. * 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.   *For wild-to-captive translocations:*  Comment on the effect of removing individuals on the source population, including any demographic or genetic effects and whether the removal will affect the viability of the source population.  *Risks at the release site*   * Document how the risks that contributed to the taxon’s decline elsewhere (3.5) 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? * 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. * 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).   *Site security and protection*  State how the protection and security of the site will be managed. E.g. consider:   * 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?   ***Socio-economic Risks***   * 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** | Describe the capture methods intended to be used. |
| **5.6** | **Health assessments and quarantine** | Describe the health assessment and quarantine procedures that will be used.  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? If not, why? |
| **5.7** | **Transportation** | Provide detailed description of methods and materials, including:   * 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:   * assessment of hard release versus soft release options * feeding * shelter * tracking devices or other fitted technologies * other forms of individual identification (e.g. tagging, tattoos, ear punches, toe clipping, PIT tags, VIA tags, shell notching, scale or colour pattern identification). |
| **5.9** | **Genetics** | Briefly outline any proposed genetic sampling or screening. State the nature of the samples, the sampling technique, and location where the samples will be stored. If no genetic component is planned provide a justification.  Please note that any proposal to sample for genetics requires AEC approval. |

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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| **6.1** | **Governance and Operations** | Outline how decisions will be made through time, and who will be responsible for making and implementing those decisions. Include (where appropriate):   * management at the release location to ensure the population establishes successfully * population management if high population density occurs (e.g. culling or removal of individuals) * monitoring and management of the source population to ensure it recovers from having individuals removed. |
| **6.2** | Long-term Commitment | Translocations require 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:   * length of contracts/tenure of all team members * strategies for managing change of personnel (e.g. hand-over of information, training) * strategies to ensure on-going funding (note: detailed funding information is requested in section 8 below). |
| **6.3** | **Contingency Plan** | Outline the contingency plan to be followed if unacceptable early losses occur or indicators of success are not met, and how that plan will be enacted.  An exit strategy should detail what will occur if the program fails to meet its objectives or indicators of success, if the required level of management cannot be maintained, or if the negative effects of the translocation become unacceptable. Detail the actions that will be taken if all the translocated animals leave the release site or cannot be found.  Clearly state factors that will trigger an exit strategy e.g. loss of funding, unacceptable losses of animals.  Identify potential to provide resources to manage alternative outcomes. |

7. MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND IMPROVEMENT

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| **7.1** | **Monitoring Program** | Outline the monitoring program for both the source and release populations and locations. Monitoring must be adequate to measure the success of the translocation and must relate to the indicators of success and conservation outcome(s). Include:   * what will be monitored * methods (direct versus indirect methods) * when/how often * the duration of the monitoring program. |
| **7.2** | **Indicators of Success** | Key indicators of success, or operational targets, must be established for both short- (<12 months or otherwise stated) and long-term time frames (>12 months). They will vary with taxon, location and project.  Outline the key indicators of success and failure, and why those particular indicators were chosen, at:   * both the source and release sites; and * in the short- and long-term.   Indicators of success should cover factors such as: persistence of sufficient individuals over pre-determined timeframes, multi-year breeding and recruitment, maintenance of demographic processes, persistence through fire/drought cycles.  Indicators should be *SMART goals*: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Result- orientated, and Timed and align to the objective of the translocation.  If more than one release is planned, specify the indications of success that must be reached before subsequent releases occur. Indicators can include:   * Body weights and body condition; * Survival rates, e.g.   + 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.   + F1 breeding within 12 months   + F2 breeding within 2 years   + > 30% of females reproduce * Population estimates, e.g.   + 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.   + average daily trap success of 7.5%   + sighting rate of 1-5 per 100 km * Distribution or density, e.g.:   + population of ≥ x spread over ≥ y hectares * Dispersal, e.g.: * number of individuals dispersing from natal colony   If the species (or a related species) has been translocated, explain how these indicators of success relate to those previously used, as well as the outcomes of previous translocations. |
| **7.3** | **Reporting and Publications** | There are two distinct reporting phases that should be observed, for both the source and release populations.  One is immediately post-release, to finalise the transfer phase and debrief relevant people on how it went, and to record and evaluate the transfer for future reference and improvement by lessons learned in the process.  The second is an ongoing report, to record and evaluate what is monitored (at least annually, more frequently in early years, as appropriate) and to inform relevant parties about progress and any issues that arise. This must include annual reports to TEP using the supplied reporting template.  Copies of both post-release and longer-term reports must be sent to the TEP. |

8. FUNDING AND RESOURCES

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| 8.1 | Sources | Outline all sources of funding or proposed funding, both actual and in-kind.  Include confirmation of funding as an Appendix. |
| **8.2** | **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:   * Post translocation management for the duration of the project. * Take account of hours and costs at both the source and release locations. |
| **8.3** | **Budget** | As per the following example:   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Item description** | **Year 1** | | **Year 2** | | **Year 3** | | **Ongoing** | | | Budget | Source | Budget | Source | Budget | Source | Budget | Source | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **TOTAL** | $ | | $ | | $ | | $ | |   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.  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.  If an ongoing program is essential for success of the translocation (e.g. predator control) identify this and the funding/resource commitments. |

9. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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| **9.1** | **Affected and Interested Parties** | List all affected and interested parties (can be attached as an Appendix.)  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. |
| **9.2** | **Public Relations and Participation** | Briefly describe the communication strategies, the communication process undertaken with affected and interested parties and their response.  Consider likely social and economic costs and benefits of the project e.g.   * 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.   List and comment on the key PR implications (positive and negative).  Briefly state how the issues/PR implications are going to be managed and by whom.  Identify likely resistance to the proposal and how this will be managed.  If public participation is desirable, list the opportunities provided by this project. If there are confidentiality or site security issues, state them.  Briefly state how the opportunities will be delivered. |
| **9.3** | **Stakeholders’ Endorsements** | List endorsements from all stakeholders, including relevant DELWP staff and land managers. |

10. REFERENCES

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| Bibliography of references used to produce the Proposal. |

11. APPENDICES

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| Can include, but not limited to:   * DELWP regional approval * written evidence of support from landholder/manager * Recovery Plan for the taxon * maps of distribution, project area, habitats * taxa lists for the location * funding approvals * covenants * contact details for Indigenous communities (where permission has been granted to provide them) * contact details for affected and interested parties (where permission has been granted to provide them). |

1. PERMITS

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| **Permits and approvals** | State whether authorisations and other approvals have been applied for, and the status or outcome of the applications. Particularly:   * Authorisations under the *Wildlife Act 1975* (including research permits where applicable) * Permits under the *National Parks Act 1975.* * Permits under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* * Animal ethics approval   Attach a copy of approval or application if available. |

1. SIGNATURE(S)

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| **Name(s) and Signature(s) of Proponents** |  |

1. Translocation definitions from the *IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations* (IUCN/SSC 2013, Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations, Version 1.0, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN Species Survival Commission). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The indigenous range of a species is the known or inferred distribution generated from historical records, or physical evidence of the species’ occurrence. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)