

## RECOVERY OUTLINE

# Fairy Prion (southern)

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Pachyptila turtur subantarctica</i> Oliver, 1955
3	Common name	Fairy Prion (southern)
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population:	Endangered: D
	Population visiting Australian territory:	Least Concern

### 5 Reasons for listing

The population size of the subspecies is probably stable, with 50 to 250 mature individuals (Endangered: D). Global status is Least Concern, but the national status of the breeding population is assessed independently of the global status, because it is assumed there is little genetic interchange (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	200 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	2 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	110	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	2	high
Largest sub-population	100	low
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

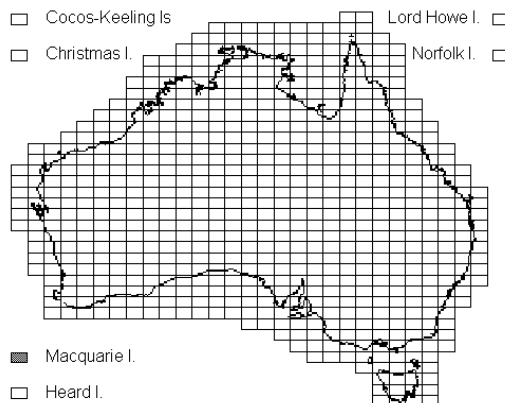
*P. t. turtur* (Bass Strait islands, New Zealand offshore islands, Chatham Is, Falkland Is, Indian Ocean subantarctic islands) is Least Concern.

### 7 Past range and abundance

First recorded Macquarie I. in 1956 (Keith and Hines, 1958), breeding confirmed in 1978 (Brothers, 1984). Breeding recorded on two rock stacks off Macquarie I., one near Langdon Point, the other near Davis Point (Brothers, 1984). The second sub-population was found on Bishop and Clerk Is in 1993 (N. Brothers). Outside Australian territory, breeding on Antipodes I., Big South Cape and Snares I., some individuals migrating north towards New Zealand and southern Australia in winter (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

### 8 Present range and abundance

As above; no new data available.



### 9 Ecology

The Fairy Prion is a small pelagic seabird that feeds primarily on euphausiids and nests in burrows. On Macquarie I. and adjacent islets, the burrows are usually under Cushion Plants *Colobanthus muscoides* or in peaty soil (Brothers, 1984).

### 10 Threats

The small sub-population on Macquarie I. is subject to predation by feral cats and Subantarctic Skuas *Catharacta skua lombergi*, and habitat degradation by rabbits (Brothers, 1984, Marchant and Higgins, 1990). Presence during winter, when many other species are absent, makes Fairy Prions particularly vulnerable to predators (Brothers, 1984). Though Black Rats *Rattus rattus* are present at breeding colonies, there has so far been no evidence that they are predators of Fairy Prions (Brothers, 1984).

### 11 Information required

11.1 Clarify taxonomic status of population.

### 12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Re-establish successful breeding on Macquarie I.

### 13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 Sustained feral animal control has eliminated Wekas, reduced cat and rabbit numbers and is continuing.

13.2 Irregular monitoring of numbers using stacks.

13.3 Bishop and Clerk Is have been surveyed.

- 14 Management actions required  
 14.1 Systematic monitoring of breeding stacks and adjacent mainland to determine whether controls are being successful.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation  
 Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved  
 None.

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17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

*Staff resources required 2001-2005*                      1.0                      *Technical Officer (monitoring)<sup>1</sup>*

1.0                      *Technical Officer (ferals)<sup>1</sup>*

*Financial resources required 2001-2005*

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<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Monitoring breeding sub-populations<sup>1</sup></i>	\$15,800	\$0	\$15,800
<i>Control feral animals on Macquarie I.<sup>1</sup></i>	\$277,900	\$0	\$277,900
<i>Total</i>	\$293,700	\$0	<b>\$293,700</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Costs of Macquarie I. monitoring and feral animal control shared among Rockhopper Penguin, 4 albatross spp., 2 giant-petrels, 3 other petrels, Imperial Shag and Antarctic Tern; does not include transport costs

18 Bibliography

Brothers, N. P. 1984. Breeding distribution and status of burrow-nesting petrels at Macquarie Island. *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 11:113-131.

Gärdenfors, U., Rodríguez, J.P., Hilton-Taylor, C., Hyslop, C., Mace, G., Molur, S. and Poss, S. 1999. Draft guidelines for the Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at National and Regional Levels. *Species* 31-32:58-70.

Keith, K. and Hines, M. P. 1958. New and rare species of birds at Macquarie Island during 1956 and 1957. *CSIRO Wildl. Res.* 5:50-53.

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

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