RECOVERY OUTLINE

Little Shearwater (Tasman Sea)

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	*Puffinis assimilis assimilis* (Gould, 1838)
3	Common name	Little Shearwater (Tasman Sea)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable D2

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population breeds at fewer than five locations (Vulnerable: D2). Global status is probably Vulnerable (D2), but, as there is assumed to be no genetic interchange, the national status is determined independently of the global status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	*Estimate*	*Reliability*
Extent of occurrence	*20 km²*	*high*
trend	*stable*	*high*
Area of occupancy	*4 km²*	*high*
trend	*stable*	*high*
No. of breeding birds	*10,000*	*low*
trend	*stable*	*high*
No. of sub-populations	*2*	*medium*
Largest sub-population	*8,000*	*low*
Generation time	*10 years*	*low*
Global population share	*50 %*	*low*
Level of genetic exchange	*low*	*low*

6 Infraspecific taxa

P. a. tunneyi breeds on islands off south-west Western Australia, and is Least Concern, as are five extralimital subspecies, and the species as a whole.

7 Past range and abundance

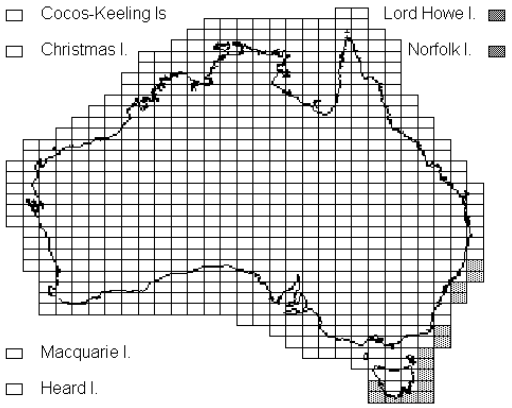
Within Australian territory, breeding recorded Lord Howe I. and Norfolk I. groups. Also extralimitally, Kermadec Is, north of New Zealand. After breeding, apparently disperses over Tasman Sea and possibly Coral Sea (Hindwood, 1940, Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Hutton, 1991).

8 Present range and abundance

Extinct from Lord Howe I. since 1913 (Hindwood, 1940), but still present on Norfolk I. until 1980s (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, O. Evans). Breeding on Ball's Pyramid and Roach I., and probably other small islands around Lord Howe I., as well as Nepean and Phillip Is, near Norfolk I. In Kermadec Is, eliminated from Raoul I., but persists on other islands in group (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

9 Ecology

Little Shearwaters breed on islands in burrows dug in soft soil among mats of succulents or among loose rocks. They forage far out to sea (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).



10 Threats

Little Shearwaters appear to have been eliminated from Lord Howe I. by Black Rats *Rattus rattus* (Hindwood, 1940, Fullagar and Disney, 1975), which is also the likely cause of their apparent disappearance from Norfolk I. The accidental introduction of either predator to their refuges could result in their local extinction.

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain protection for current breeding sub-populations, to enable their expansion.

12.2 Expansion of population to main islands.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 Strict quarantine is maintained on any vessels visiting Roach I., Nepean I. or Phillip I.

13.2 Rat baiting and cat trapping is occurring in Norfolk Island National Park.

13.3 Responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. is being encouraged through sponsorship of a cat de-sexing clinic, and a ban on the importation of reproductively-competent cats is being supported.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Census sub-population on Roach I. and Ball's Pyramid at least once every five years.

14.2 Census sub-population on Phillip and Nepean Is every three years.

14.3 Establish cooperative rodent control programs throughout Norfolk I, with a view to rat eradication.

14.4 Eradicate rats from Lord Howe I.

14.5 Enhance rat baiting and cat trapping on Norfolk I. and monitor its efficacy.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Environment Australia, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Norfolk Island Administration.

16 Other organisations involved

Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 — *0.05* *Project Officer* [1]; *0.05* *Technical Officer* [2]

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	*Conservation agencies*	*Other funding sources*	*Total*
Monitoring Lord Howe I. [1]	$8,000	$0	$8,000
Monitoring Phillip I. [2]	$2,500	$500	$3,000
Rat baiting in Norfolk Island National Park [3]	$10,000	$0	$10,000
Cooperative rodent control on Norfolk I. [3]	$10,000	$0	$10,000
Rat eradication Lord Howe I. [4]	$100,000	$0	$100,000
Cat trapping Norfolk I.[3]	$5,000	$0	$5,000
Encourage responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I.[3]	$2,000	$0	$2,000
Total	$137,500	$500	**$138,000**

1. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, Little Shearwater, White-bellied Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Woodhen, Grey Ternlet and Pied Currawong
2. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Little Shearwater, Masked Booby and Grey Ternlet.
3. Cost divided among all threatened taxa on Norfolk I.
4. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, Little Shearwater, White-bellied Storm-Petrel and Grey Ternlet

18 Bibliography

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Comments received from

Barry Baker, Margaret Christian, Owen Evans, David Priddel.