

RECOVERY OUTLINE

White-fronted Tern

1	Family	Laridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Sterna striata</i> Gmelin, 1789
3	Common name	White-fronted Tern
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population:	Vulnerable: D1+2
	Population visiting Australian territory:	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

This species has only a small population in Australia (Vulnerable: D1) at only a few locations (D2). Although the large population visiting from New Zealand is Least Concern, there may not be substantial genetic interchange. The Australian status has therefore been assessed independently of the global status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999), which is Least Concern.

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	100 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	6 km ²	medium
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	90	medium
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

Probably breeding around Furneaux Group last century, but early records overlooked until 1980 (Whinray, 1980, 1982). Non-breeding birds particularly common in winter in Bass Strait and off eastern Tasmania and New South Wales, with a small number of records from South Australia and southern Queensland (Higgins and Davies, 1996).

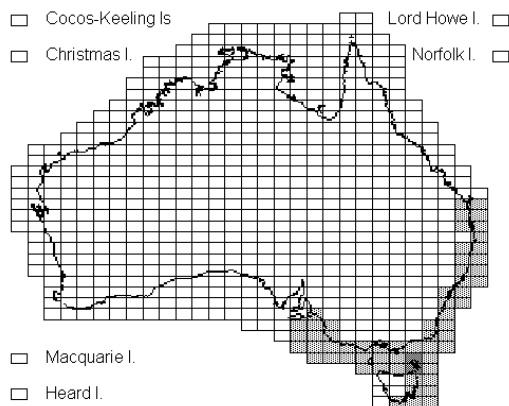
8 Present range and abundance

Distribution as above. Breeding population estimated at 30 pairs in 1982, 53 in 1986 and 45 on 6 islands in 1996 (Brothers *et al.*, 1996, Higgins and Davies, 1996).

9 Ecology

White-fronted Terns eat a range of small fish gathered from coastal seas or the edge of the wave break. One

to two eggs are laid in spring in shallow depressions on rocky stacks or islets, often among succulent vegetation (Whinray, 1980, 1982, Higgins and Davies, 1996).



10 Threats

None likely in the foreseeable future, although introduced predators like cats could affect some colonies in some years.

11 Information required

11.1 Map breeding sites opportunistically during island surveys.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Enable persistence of Australian breeding population.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

14.1 None, if no negative trend in population detected.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

None.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out
Staff resources required 2001-2005 *None.*
Financial resources required 2001-2005

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Monitoring¹</i>	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
<i>Total</i>	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000

¹ In addition to routine costs incurred during island visits

18 Bibliography

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Whinray, J. S. 1980. The first Australian breeding record of the White-fronted Tern *Aust. Bird Watcher* 8:137-146.

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