

Parrot 18M01

2018

# Feral Cats, Kyloring and Conservation on the South Coast of WA



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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



**PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**



We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of Australia, and their enduring connection to the land, waters and community, and to the lands on which we live and work :

the Wudjari, Ngatjumay and Menang and Koreng,

the many Noongar people on whose land Kyloring is no longer found,

and the Whadjuk on whose land we are gathered today.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging

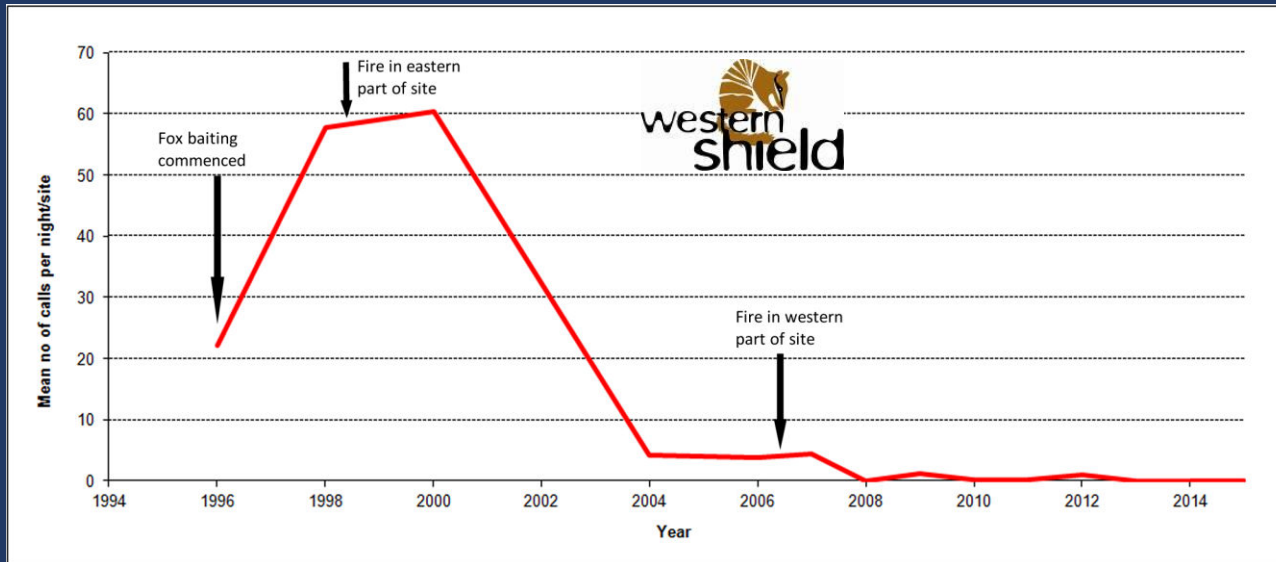
Michael Cummings, Menang

# Kyloring - 'the canary in the coalmine'

- Ground nesting parrot
- Only known from a single wild population
- Less than 150 remain in the wild
- Calls reliably in the hour before sunrise and after sunset
- Calling frequencies used to track population status
- Requirement for mosaic of fire ages for breeding, roosting and feeding.

Burbidge *et al.* (2007). Monitoring population change in the cryptic and threatened Western Ground Parrot in relation to fire. *Emu* **107**, 79–88.

Tiller *et al.* (2017). Thirteen years (2003-2015) of population trends and local extinctions in the Western Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*). Unpublished report to the SCTBRT.

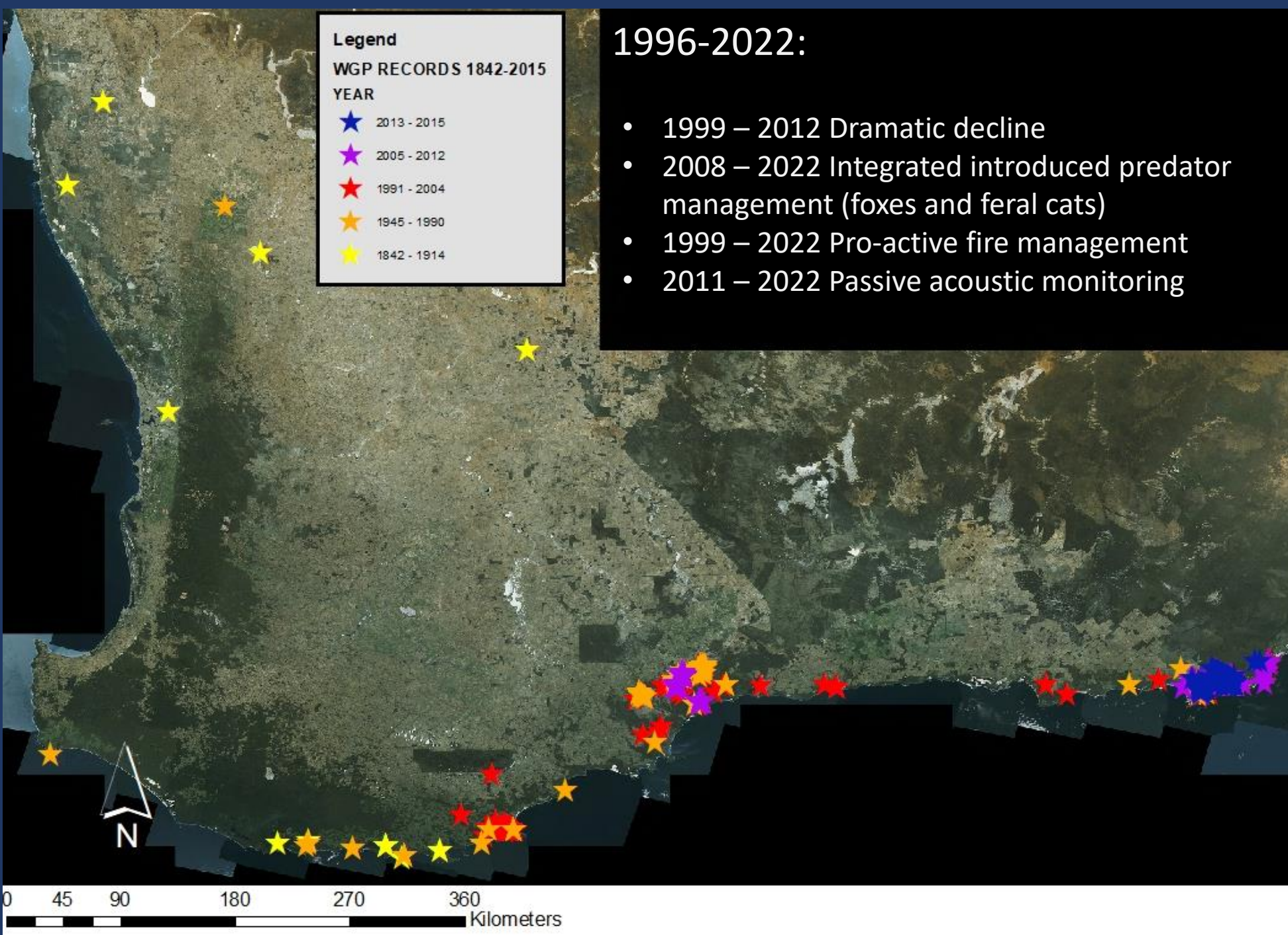


**Legend**  
**WGP RECORDS 1842-2015**  
**YEAR**

- ★ 2013 - 2015
- ★ 2005 - 2012
- ★ 1991 - 2004
- ★ 1945 - 1990
- ★ 1842 - 1914

# 1996-2022:

- 1999 – 2012 Dramatic decline
- 2008 – 2022 Integrated introduced predator management (foxes and feral cats)
- 1999 – 2022 Pro-active fire management
- 2011 – 2022 Passive acoustic monitoring



### South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Plan

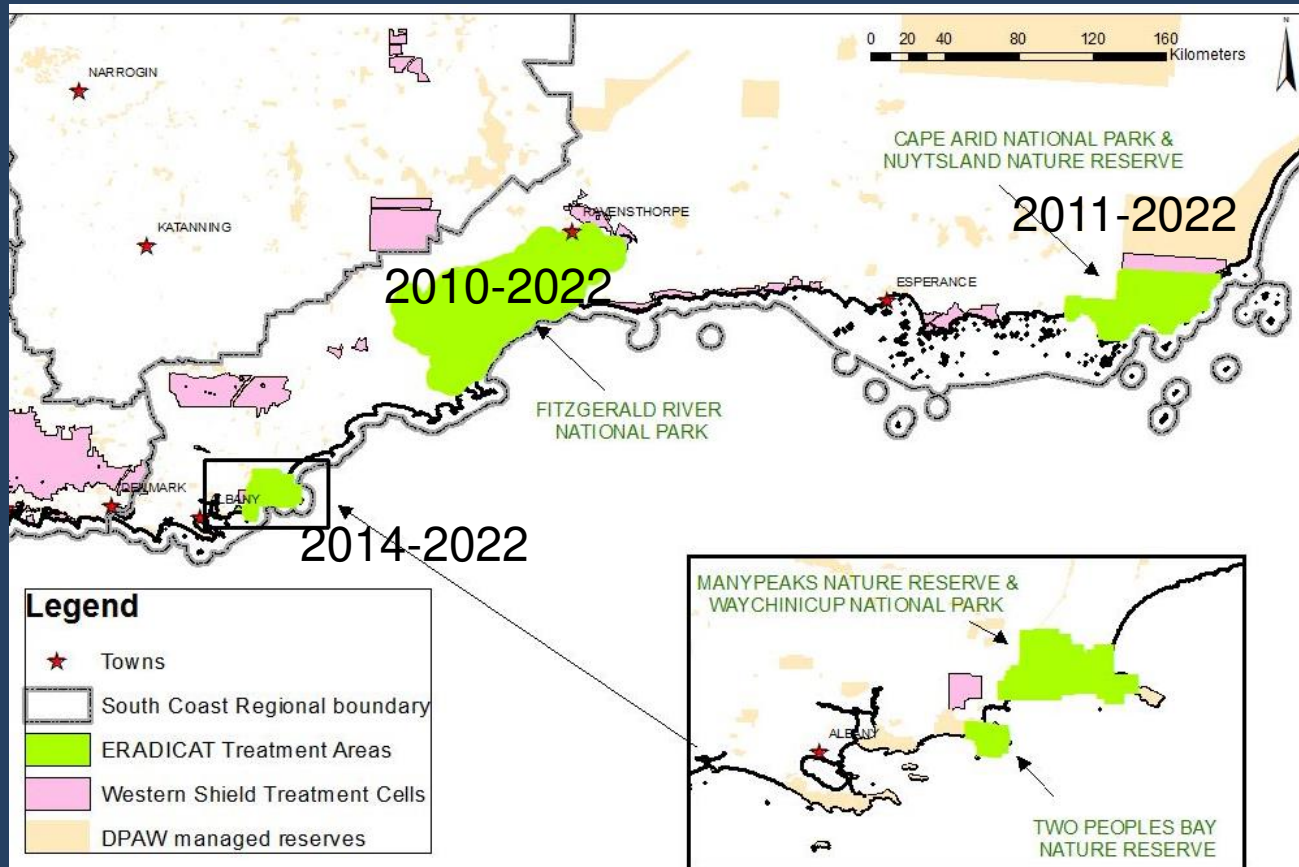
Western ground parrot	<i>Pezoporus flaviventris</i>
Western bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis longirostris</i>
Noisy scrub-bird	<i>Atrichornis clamosus</i>
Western whipbird (western heath)	<i>Psophodes nigrogularis nigrogularis</i>
Western whipbird (western mallee)	<i>Psophodes nigrogularis oregon</i>
Rufous bristlebird (western)	<i>Dasyornis broadbenti littoralis</i>

Western Australian Wildlife Management Program No. 44  
 Department of Parks and Wildlife  
 September 2014



# Western Shield & SCTFRP

- Fox baiting across 8000 km<sup>2</sup> of Reserves in South Coast Region since 1996
- Cat baiting commenced in 2010



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# Research trials

- Capturing and collaring feral cats.
- Pre- and post-baiting camera surveys.
- Bait trials.



# 2021 – Cape Arid – Nuytsland post-fire recovery



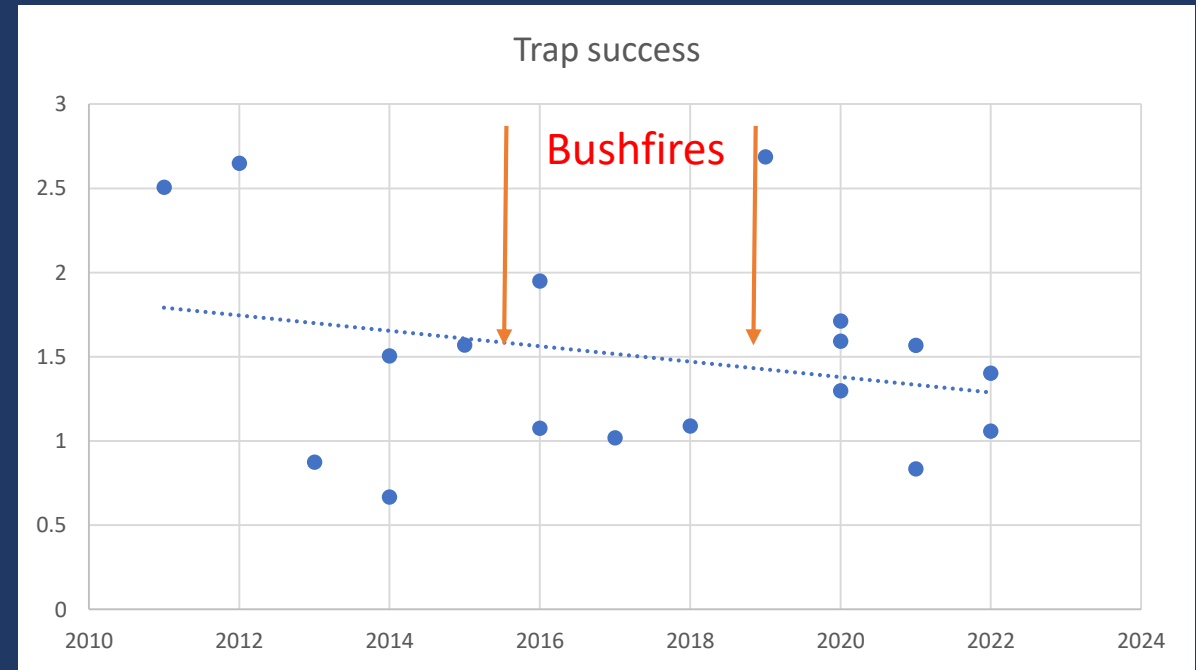
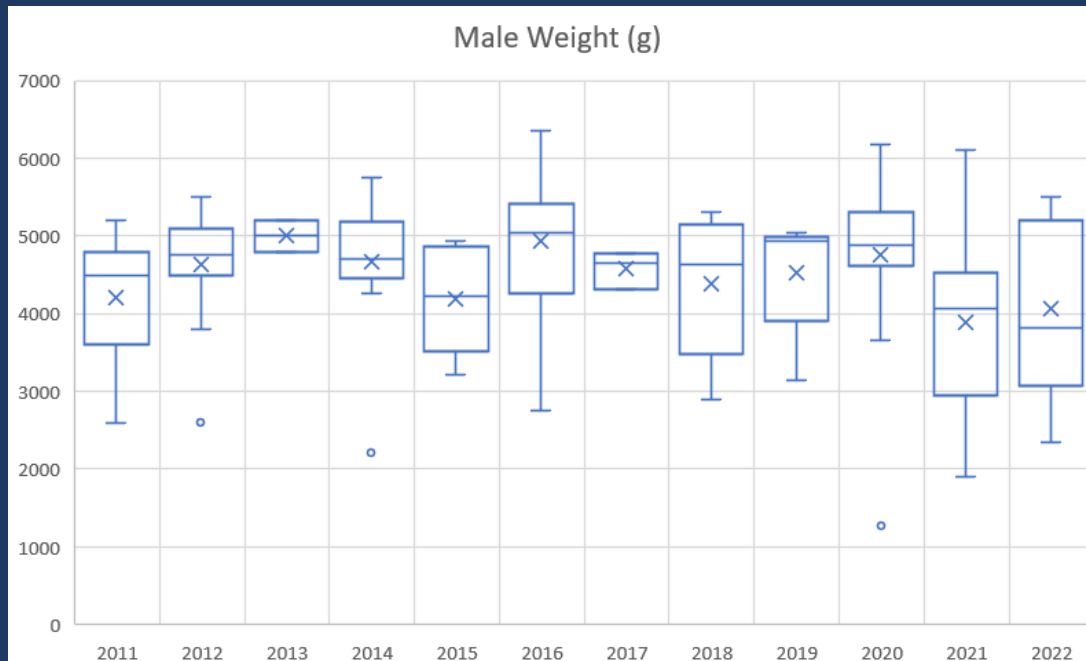
Burnt 2003

Burnt 2015

Burnt 2019

# Integrated management

- Landscape scale management
- Aerial *Eradicat*<sup>®</sup> since 2010
- Supported by ground baiting, trapping and other methods





# Integrated management

- Combination of technology and approaches.
- Landscape monitoring.

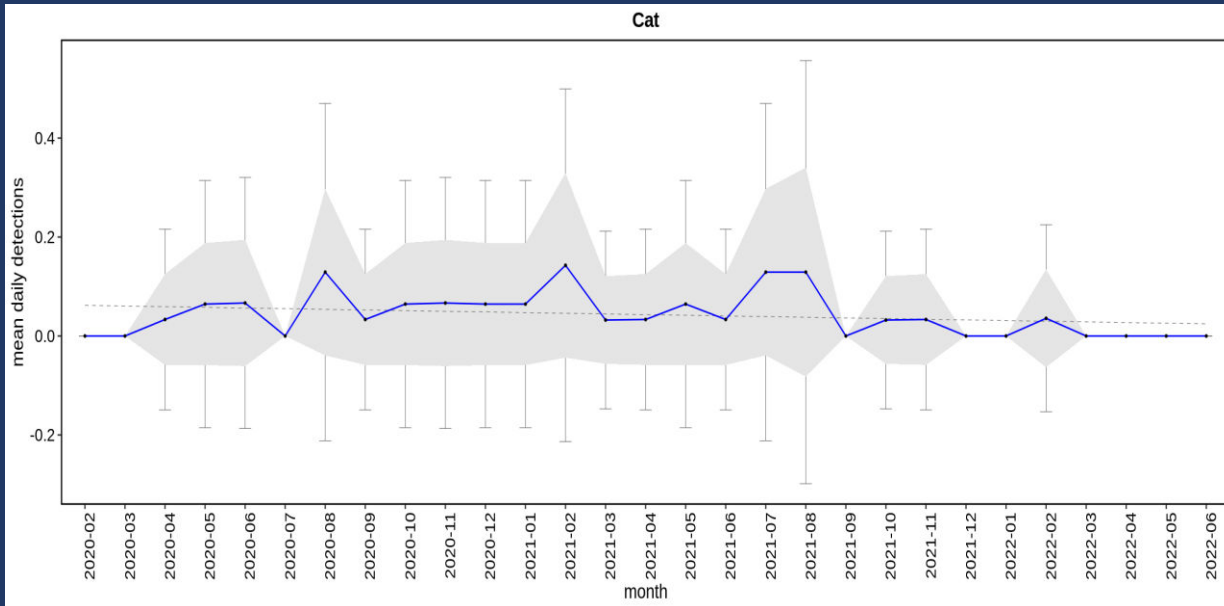
CSIRO PUBLISHING  
Wildlife Research  
<https://doi.org/10.1071/WR19217>

**Integrating feral cat (*Felis catus*) control into landscape-scale introduced predator management to improve conservation prospects for threatened fauna: a case study from the south coast of Western Australia**

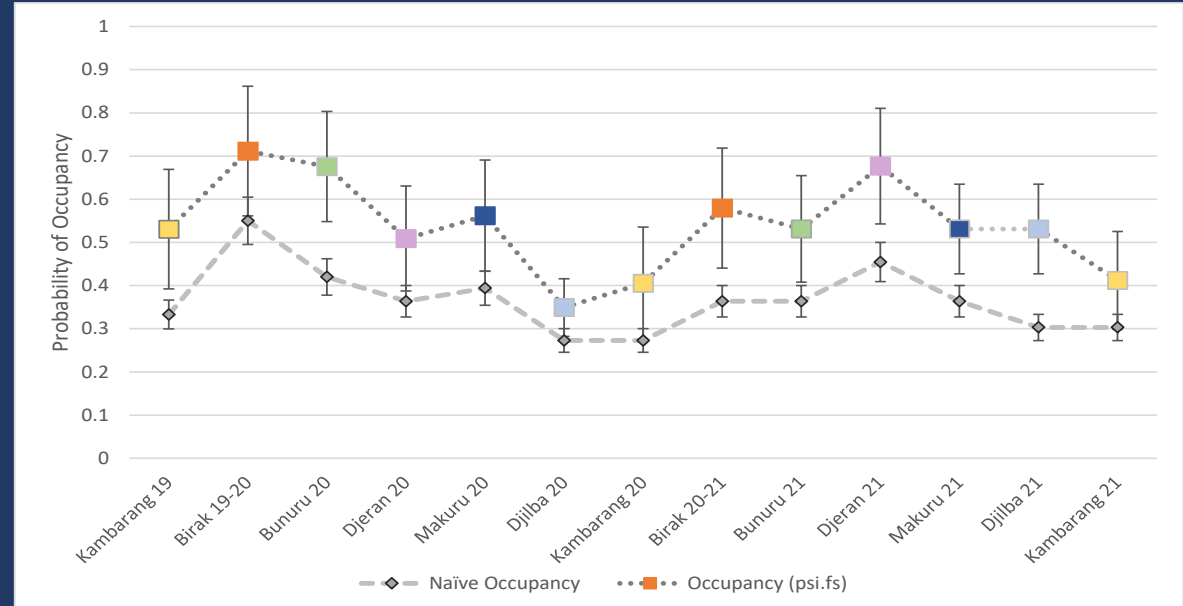
S. Comer<sup>A,G,H</sup>, L. Clausen<sup>A,B</sup>, S. Cowen<sup>B,A,C</sup>, J. Pinder<sup>A,D</sup>, A. Thomas<sup>A</sup>,  
A. H. Burbidge<sup>C,E</sup>, C. Tiller<sup>A,F</sup>, D. Algar<sup>B,C</sup> and P. Speldewinde<sup>G</sup>



## Cats



## Kyloring

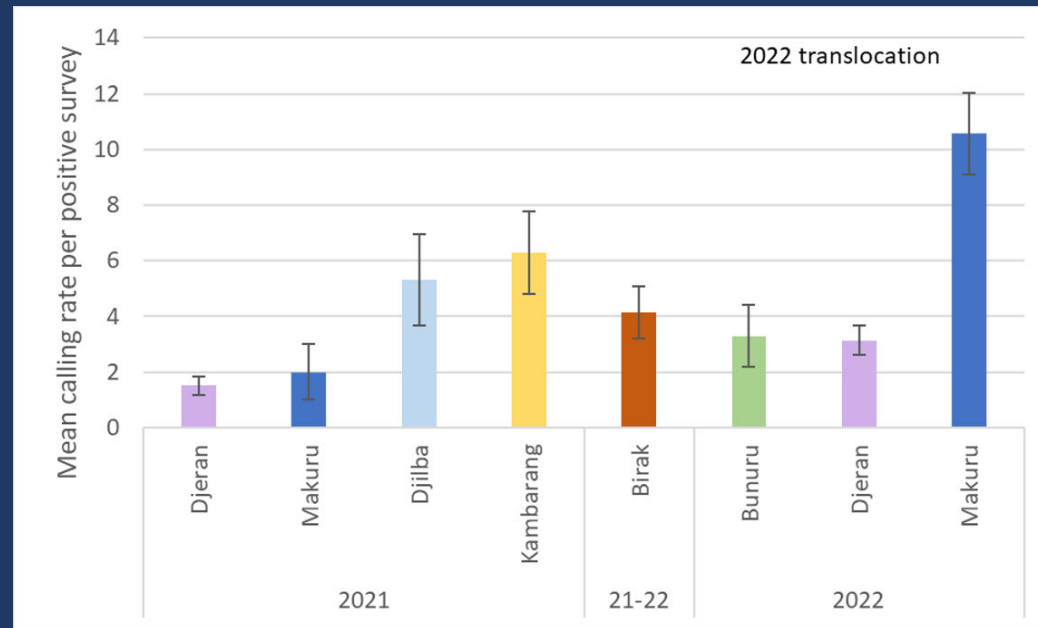




- Collaborative vision and commitment of multiple partners and supporters have been essential to get to tackle the problem of feral cats across the south coast.
  - Operation for 10 years + in an adaptive management framework
- Significant evidence from the south coast to have optimism that cat control (as part of an integrated program) can be effective outside fences to protect threatened species.
  - Confidence to attempt reintroductions of fauna - such as Kyloring.

# The Future

- Reason's to be optimistic – reintroduction
- Short-term success criteria are being met
- Some long-term success criteria a being met.
- Predator numbers at the release and source site are stable as a result of integrated control methods



# The Future

- A multi-agency and land tenure integrated approach and on-going management of feral cats.
  - Fitz-Stirling landscape project
- Continue to invest in delivery of integrated predator management across important conservation landscapes.



# South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project

EXPLORE PROJECT

Help us protect Western Australia's rarest mammal and bird: Gilbert's Potoroo and the Western Ground Parrot.

Learn more



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



western shield birdlife



## SOUTH COAST THREATENED FAUNA RECOVERY PROJECT STATISTICS

36% Complete

1,957

Volunteers

313,078

Classifications

40,065

Subjects

14,719

Completed Subjects

Research

The Team

Education

FAQ

## The significance of this project

The south coast of Western Australia sits within the South West Biodiversity hotspot, an area globally recognised for its unique flora and fauna. The south coast is home to many species of threatened plants and animals, with many found nowhere else in the world.

Staff from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions's (DBCA) South Coast Region work closely with Birdlife Australia, the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group (GPAG) and the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot (FWGP) to manage and service over 130 camera traps across the region, and we are asking for your assistance to analyse the *terabytes* of data that they produce. These cameras are installed within the remote wilderness of the national parks and nature reserves across the South Coast region to monitor occupancy and abundance of threatened species, the more common native fauna of the area and feral predators. Feral predators such as foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) have had a major impact on the range and abundance of all threatened species on the south coast, and the South Coast DBCA team, in conjunction with Western Shield, implement management actions to control these pests. Data collected from camera traps are used to measure the effectiveness of feral predator control programs and to inform future conservation actions aimed at recovery of threatened species.

This project focuses on the conservation monitoring, management and recovery of a suite of unique threatened fauna, including two critically endangered species, the Gilbert's potoroo or Ngilyte (*Potorous gilbertii*) and the western ground parrot or Kyloring (*Pezoporus flaviventris*). Numerous other threatened and common species benefit from this work, including the western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), noisy scrub-bird (*Atrichornis clamosus*), western bristlebird (*Dasyornis longirostris*), western whipbird (*Psophodes nigrogularis*) and quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*).



2021-04-09 01:59:20 M 2/3 °C 20°C

TASK	TUTORIAL
Like	
Australian ovenbird	Red-winged fairy-wren
Brown falcon	Silversye
Brown quail	Southern emu-wren
Brush-bronzewing	Splendid fairy-wren
Carnaby's black cockatoo	Spotted nightjar
Common bronzewing	Tawny frogmouth
Emu	Tawny-crowned honeyeater
Galah	Wedge-tailed eagle
Grey butcherbird	Welcome swallow
Grey currawong	Western bristlebird
Grey fantail	Western fieldwren
Laughing kookaburra	Western ground parrot
Maggie	Western rosella
Malleefowl	Western spinebill
	Cat
	Echidna
	Fox
	Mouse or smaller?
	Quenda
	Quokka
	Rabbit
	Western brush wallaby
	Western grey kangaroo
	Western ringtail possum
	Fauly
	Human
	Nothing
	Small mammal

FIELD GUIDE

## Notes

General comment threads about individual subjects

Leigh\_Whisson **MODERATOR** Subject 69822575 *an hour ago*

93 Participants

504 Discussions

676 Comments

## From the team

General news and announcements from researchers and moderators

Abbsta **RESEARCHER** Shiny lights in the grass *5 hours ago*

1 Participant

2 Discussions

2 Comments

## Questions for the Research Team

Want to ask us a question? Drop us a line here.

Abbsta **RESEARCHER** Classifying young *6 hours ago*

15 Participants

8 Discussions

31 Comments

## Best Photo Debate?

What's your favourite photo? Which quokka pose made you smile? Post comments on your favourite here and we will share ours.

Abbsta **RESEARCHER** Best photo *4 days ago*

3 Participants

1 Discussion

3 Comments

## Glitches and other issues

Use this board to let us know if you are having any issues with the South Coast Fauna Recovery platform

3 Participants

3 Discussions

6 Comments



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Thanks!!  
To project staff past & present, collaborators and the many volunteers, and supporters of our work

*The year is 2040. The community values Kyloring and we have multiple, self-sustaining and resilient wild populations that are effectively managed as an integral component of our landscape.*

*As a symbol of a healthy ecosystem, their calls once again herald the start and end of each day in Western Australia's biologically rich heathlands.*

*The successful recovery of Kyloring provides inspiration, hope and a blueprint for the community's efforts to conserve biodiversity, and shows that we can and should prevent extinction.*



natural resource management program

