RECOVERY OUTLINE

Grey Grasswren (Bulloo)

1	Family	Maluridae
2	Scientific name	*Amytornis barbatus barbatus* Favaloro & McEvey, 1968
3	Common name	Grey Grasswren (Bulloo)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies occurs in a single small location of about 100 km^2 that could be subject to catastrophe (Vulnerable: D2). Although its area of occupancy is less than 500 km^2, and confined within a single, if large, location (B1), the species does not meet the Endangered criteria, as is not thought to be in decline (so not B2), as its population fluctuates, and not by an order of magnitude (so not B3).

	Estimate	*Reliability*
Extent of occurrence	*100 km^2*	*medium*
trend	*stable*	*medium*
Area of occupancy	*100 km^2*	*medium*
trend	*stable*	*medium*
No. of breeding birds	*10,000*	*low*
trend	*stable*	*medium*
No. of sub-populations	*1*	*high*
Generation time	*3 years*	*low*

6 Infraspecific taxa

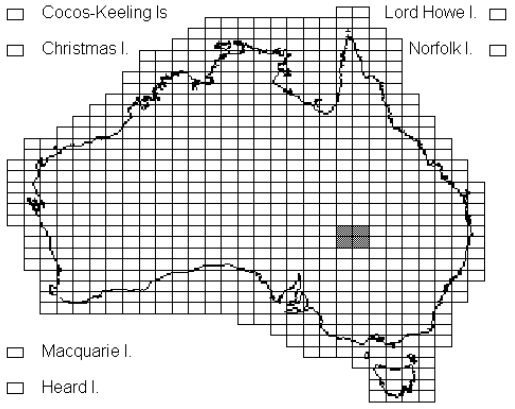
A. b. diamantina (Lake Eyre basin) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Floodplain of Bulloo R. on New South Wales/ Queensland border including Bulloo R. overflow, Caryapundy and Jerrira Swamps (Favaloro and McEvey, 1968, Schodde and Christidis, 1987, Rowley and Russell, 1997).

8 Present range and abundance

As above (McAllan and Cooper, 1995).



9 Ecology

Grey Grasswrens live in swamps dominated by lignum *Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii* and cane grass *Eragrostis australasica*, where these plants form well-separated clumps at least 1 m high (Favaloro and McEvey, 1968, Schodde, 1982). They eat seeds and insects and build semi-domed nests in which 2-3 eggs are laid (Favaloro and McEvey, 1968, Schodde, 1982). Habitat condition and hence population probably fluctuates greatly according to the level of flooding and the intensity of cattle grazing, but has not been studied.

10 Threats

Cattle grazing is considered a threat (McAllan and Cooper, 1995, K. Harris, L. Living), particularly in dry years, with the result that the habitat condition was particularly poor in 1997 (K. Harris, L. Living). However, stock numbers have probably been higher in the past (Palmer, 1994). Diversion of water from the Bulloo R. may be a threat in the future, but is not currently planned.

11 Information required

11.1 Determine population extent, distribution and density.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Retain and monitor a viable population.

12.2 Implement appropriate grazing regimes.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

14.1 On the basis of surveys of population and habitat condition, assess conservation management requirements.

14.2 Develop a grazing regime that leaves core habitat lightly grazed, particularly during drought.

14.3 Monitor population regularly.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

Pastoralists, bird-watching societies.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005

0.1	*Project Officer*
0.1	*Extension Officer*

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	*Conservation agencies*	*Other funding sources*	*Total*
Delineate distribution, estimate population density and assess conservation management requirements.	$12,000	$5,000	$17,000
In collaboration with pastoralists, develop appropriate grazing regime.	$10,000	$0	$10,000
Institute monitoring.	$10,000	$0	$10,000
Total	$32,000	$5,000	**$37,000**

18 Bibliography

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