

## RECOVERY OUTLINE

# Southern Emu-wren (Fleurieu Peninsula)

1	Family	Maluridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Stipiturus malachurus intermedius</i> Ashby, 1920
3	Common name	Southern Emu-wren (Fleurieu Peninsula)
4	Conservation status	Critically Endangered: B1+2abcde

### 5 Reasons for listing

The small area occupied by this species is severely fragmented (B1). A continuing decline is likely (B2) in extent of occurrence (a), area of occupancy (b), area, extent and quality of habitat (c), number of sub-populations (d) and number of mature individuals (e).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	400 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	decreasing	medium
Area of occupancy	10 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	decreasing	high
No. of breeding birds	480	medium
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	18	medium
Largest sub-population	140	medium
Generation time	2 years	medium

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

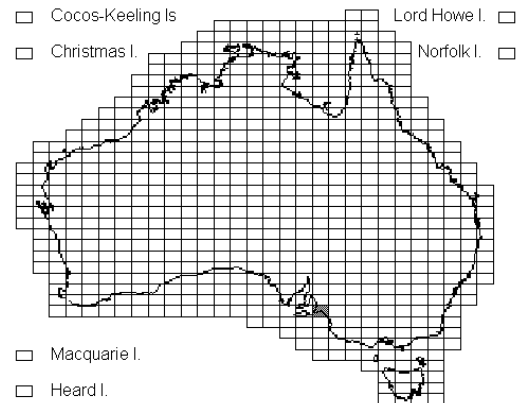
*S. m. parimeda* (Eyre Peninsula) and *S. m. hartogi* (Dirk Hartog I.) are Vulnerable. *S. m. littleri* (Tasmania), *S. m. malachurus* (south-eastern Australia), *S. m. westernensis* (south-western Australia), *S. m. halmaturina* (Kangaroo I.), *S. m. polionotum* (south-eastern South Australia and western Victoria; Schodde and Mason, 1999) and the species are Least Concern.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Fleurieu Peninsula, S. A., between Kuitpo in the north and Deep Creek in the south (SAOA, 1977; Schodde, 1982, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

### 8 Present range and abundance

Confined to a few scattered sub-populations on Fleurieu Peninsula: around Deep Creek, Parawa, Myponga, Mt Compass, Nangkita and Finniss. Locally extinct from several sites: Yundi, Mt Compass, Cox's Scrub, Ashbourne and possibly Kuitpo, with little likelihood of recolonisation. In 1993, present at 18 of 86 sites surveyed with half the population found at two sites (Littley and Cutten, 1994). Since 1993, 3 to 6 sub-populations may have been lost, but four additional sub-populations have been found (MLRSERT, 1998). In 1999, one sub-population contained no females for a year and was likely to be lost in the immediate future (M. Pickett).



### 9 Ecology

Habitat is characterised by dense vegetation up to 1 m high (SAOA, 1991, Littley and Cutten, 1994). Two vegetation types are particularly favoured by Southern Emu-wrens in the Mt Lofty Ra.: swamp that is dominated by Cutting Grass *Gahnia*, sedge *Juncus* and a variety of dense shrubs in swampy gullies and run-on areas at the base of the Mt Lofty Ra., and low closed heath on ridges in Deep Creek Conservation Park.

### 10 Threats

Much of the habitat used by Southern Emu-wrens on the Fleurieu Peninsula has been drained and cleared for agriculture, has dried out after feeder streams have been dammed or are heavily grazed. In dry seasons, these patches are also vulnerable to fire, especially extensive wildfires such as occurred in 1983, but also deliberate burning to create pasture. In the past, habitat patches could be replenished after local extinctions by birds dispersing from refuges, but the increasing separation of patches means that this is now much more difficult or impossible (SAOA, 1991, Littley and Cutten, 1994).

### 11 Information required

- 11.1 Analyse critical characteristics of habitat.
- 11.2 Refine understanding of effects of habitat management on suitability for emu-wrens.
- 11.3 Investigate possible links between conservation of the emu-wren and re-establishment of the eastern subspecies of Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus wallicus* in South Australia.
- 11.4 Determine numbers in Deep Creek Conservation Park.

