

GUIDELINES TO PREPARE A SPECIES PROFILE TO AMEND THE LIST OF WILDLIFE THAT CAN BE IMPORTED INTO TASMANIA

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1. ABOUT THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been written to assist in the development of a Species Profile, which is needed to amend the list of species that can be imported into Tasmania under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. All mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians that are not included on the list of species that are suitable for import into Tasmania are prohibited. These guidelines describe the requirements for applying to amend the list, and can be used as a reference guide when preparing a Species Profile.

More information on the background to this document, and the procedures for amending the import list are provided in the *Policy and Procedures for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Vertebrate Wildlife in Tasmania* (DPIPWE 2011).

2. MAKING AN APPLICATION

To apply for a species to be included on the list of animals suitable for live import it is necessary to complete an Application Form and Species Profile, and return it to DPIPWE. The Application Form can be downloaded from the DPIPWE website (www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au). It is recommended that you contact the Wildlife Management Branch (DPIPWE) in the first instance before developing the application.

Information about the biology and ecology of the species is required so that DPIPWE can conduct a pest risk assessment. This information is provided in a Species Profile as part of the application. Applicants must organise for a suitably qualified assessor¹ to develop the Species Profile. If the required information is not provided, the application will not be considered satisfactory and the application will be refused.

Profiles will be placed on the Departmental internet site to seek stakeholder comment. DPIPWE may amend or add to the document before placing the document on the internet, therefore the application must be provided in a word document.

NOTE: Applying to have the list of wildlife that can be imported into Tasmania is a separate process from applying for a permit to import a species on the list.

3. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

Once an application has been received, the Wildlife Management Branch (DPIPWE) will assess the application and determine whether it meets the standard set out in these guidelines. If the application does not provide satisfactory detail or does not meet an appropriate scientific standard, the application will be refused.

Note: To assist the Wildlife Management Branch in the assessment of applications it is recommended that copies of key references used in the Species Profile are supplied with the application.

¹ The qualifications and experience required for assessors to be regarded as “suitably qualified” are outlined in the *Policy and Procedures for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Vertebrate Wildlife in Tasmania* (DPIPWE 2011).

4. PEST RISK ASSESSMENT

Once an acceptable application is received, the Species Profile will be published on the DPIPWE website for stakeholder comment. Comments will be sought on the technical aspects of the scientific information provided, and the potential advantages and disadvantages of the import. Twenty business days will be provided for stakeholder input.

After the consultation period has closed, DPIPWE will collate stakeholder comment and conduct a pest risk assessment to determine whether the species should be imported into Tasmania and the conditions that may apply. The applicant will be informed in writing whether the species will be added to the list of permitted imports, including the reasons for the decision. The outcome of the risk assessment will be published on the DPIPWE website.

IMPORTANT: Inclusion of the species on the list of suitable imports does not guarantee that the applicant will be issued an import permit. The applicant must also be able to comply with any conditions that will apply to the import, keeping and movement of the species in Tasmania.

5. THE SPECIES PROFILE

The Species Profile is a document that provides the minimum information that DPIPWE needs to assess the risk of importing the species into Tasmania. The Species Profile must demonstrate the scientific validity of the supplied information through adequate referencing to published, peer reviewed, scientific literature. Where information in the scientific literature is lacking or uncertain, this should also be noted. The information required is listed below.

5.1 SUMMARY

In sentences only, provide a summary of the species including:

- the species' scientific name (*Genus species*)
- region(s) where the species is native
- the species' establishment history outside its native range
- any major impacts/consequences of the species overseas and in Australia
- the likelihood of the species establishing in Tasmania
- the potential consequences of the species establishing in Tasmania
- the current conservation and legal status of the species in Tasmania
- the benefit of importing this species into Tasmania.

5.2 NAME AND TAXONOMY

Provide information on the taxonomy of the species, including:

- Kingdom
- Phylum
- Class
- Order
- Family
- Genus
- Species
- Sub-species or variety (if applicable)
- Common names (including any industry or trade names)
- Known hybrids
- Close relatives.

Discuss any taxonomic uncertainty surrounding this species and how this may be relevant to the assessment.

IMPORTANT: If the species is a genetically-modified organism (GMO), additional approvals will be required before proceeding with this application. Under the *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act 2004*, the whole of Tasmania is declared to be a GMO-free area.

5.3 DESCRIPTION

Provide a short description of the species, including:

- the maximum length and weight that the species attains
- the weight and size range of males and females
- the appearance of adults and markings including any differences between males and females
- the appearance of juveniles
- any seasonal variations in appearance
- the appearance of morphs (i.e. different phenotypes within the species)
- appearance of known hybrids
- similarities to native species
- similarities to other species.

Discuss whether the species is difficult to distinguish from other species, with particular reference to species that are present in Australia.

5.4 CONSERVATION AND LEGAL STATUS

Provide detail of the species’:

- conservation status (International, National, Tasmanian)
- legal status in Australia and Tasmania.

Will the import contribute to a breeding program for nationally or internationally listed threatened species for the purpose of conservation?

5.5 LIFE HISTORY

Provide information about the reproductive biology of the species, including:

- how frequently breeding occurs
- how many eggs or live-born young are produced at each breeding event
- the length of the gestation/incubation period
- the length of the fledging period (if relevant)
- the age at sexual maturity and the age when breeding ceases
- if the female can store sperm
- if the species has hybridised with other species (both in the wild or in captivity) or has the potential to hybridise with any other species
- if the species can hybridise, whether the progeny are fertile.

Note any differences in life history traits for natural and captive bred populations.

5.6 HABITAT REQUIREMENTS AND PREFERENCES

Provide information of the species' preferred habitat. Include details of:

- temperature range
- altitude
- outline environments that the species uses to nest (i.e. sleep, bear and rear young), shelter and feed, including whether the species occupies trees and tree hollows.

5.7 NATURAL GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Provide information of the species' natural geographic range. Include:

- the countries the species inhabits
- detail of the natural range area (km²)
- the historical natural range of the species for the last 1000 years (e.g. has the species formerly occupied a much larger range?).

Given reasons for any decline in the species distribution.

5.8 INTRODUCED GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Provide information on whether this species has established feral (non-naturally occurring) populations, and if so, include detail of:

- where populations have established successfully
- the introduced range (km²)
- the climate, environmental characteristics, and habitat of the feral populations
- the cause of feral establishments, e.g. deliberate release, escape, etc.
- whether the introduction lead to the development of hybrids.

5.9 POTENTIAL DISTRIBUTION IN TASMANIA

On the basis of modelling, describe the species' potential distribution in Tasmania. Use the CLIMATCH modelling method described in the *Policy and Procedures for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Vertebrate Wildlife in Tasmania* (DPIPWE 2011). The method outlines the relevant files from the climate modelling process which must be provided with the application.

Discuss the factors that may affect the likelihood of establishment in Tasmania. The assessment should consider the following factors:

- ability to source and use food sources in Tasmania (including natural, agricultural and urban sources)
- ability to survive and adapt to the Tasmanian climate
- ability to find shelter
- rate of reproduction.

5.10 DIET AND FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

Provide detail of the species' diet and feeding behaviour. This includes detail of:

- food types consumed
- whether the species is a specialist or generalist
- whether the species is a predator, omnivore, or herbivore (note whether herbivores are primarily browsers or grazers)
- the approximate feeding range
- feeding behaviour
- potential to feed on agricultural plants or prey species
- potential to feed on amenity plants.

5.11 SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND GROUPINGS

Provide detail on the species' social behaviour, including:

- territorial behaviour
- aggressive behaviour
- tendency to form groups.

5.12 NATURAL PREDATORS AND DISEASE

Provide detail of the species' predators and diseases in the native and introduced ranges. Include detail of potential predators and any diseases that are present in Tasmania.

5.13 THREAT TO HUMAN SAFETY

Provide detail on whether the species could be a threat to human safety, including:

- potential to cause physical injury
- potential to carry and transmit diseases or parasites, noting whether the diseases and/or parasites are present in Tasmania.

5.14 HISTORY AS A PEST

Provide detail on the species' history as a pest, including:

- damage to the environment (e.g. vegetation modification, major habitat changes, impacts on native species through competition or predation)
- damage to primary industries
- impacts on public health, safety, wellbeing and amenity
- whether the species is known to spread rapidly following release in new environments.

5.15 POTENTIAL IMPACT IN TASMANIA

Based on the information provided above, describe any potential impacts that could occur if this species was introduced into Tasmania. The following should be considered:

- potential impacts on Tasmanian species or environmental assets
- potential impacts on primary industries
- potential for damage to property or infrastructure
- whether the species poses a danger or nuisance to the public.

5.16 PREVIOUS RISK ASSESSMENTS

Provide information on, and the results of, any other environmental risk assessments undertaken on the species both in Australia and overseas, including any analysis undertaken by:

- the Vertebrate Pest Committee
- the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC)
- Biosecurity Australia
- other Australian states or territories.

5.17 RISK MANAGEMENT

Provide detailed guidelines on the way in which the species should be kept, transported and disposed of in accordance with the types of activity that the species may be used for if imported into Tasmania. Provide details of how the proposed measures could reduce the likelihood of escape or establishment (e.g. specific housing security measures, importing sterile animal). Refer to the *Policy and Procedures for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Vertebrate Wildlife in Tasmania* (DPIPWE 2011) for risk management measures that may be applied.

Include information on any conditions or restrictions that are applied in other jurisdictions, including whether these measures have been successful in containing the species.

5.18 REFERENCES

Provide references to the scientific literature used in the Species Profile. Use the Harvard standard guide to referencing. It is recommended that you provide copies of the key references used, particularly those that are difficult to source.

Note that information is required to be sourced from peer reviewed scientific literature. Downloads from internet sources will not be accepted as the sole source of scientific information, although these can provide a useful summary.

6. CHECK LIST FOR APPLICATIONS

The following checklist can be used to ensure all required information is provided as part of the application. Applications that do not contain the following required information will be refused.

- Application form
- Species Profile (provided as a Microsoft Word 2007 document or earlier)
- A clm file of the species distribution (developed from CLIMATCH software)
- A png file of the species distribution (developed from CLIMATCH software)
- A png file of the CLIMATCH output showing climate match to Australia.²

For applications to import wildlife for the purpose of public display (and requiring a Wildlife Exhibition License), the following documents may also be required:

- Best practice standards for keeping the species
- Species population plan
- Risk management policy
- Population management plan
- Contingency plan for escapes

7. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Electronic applications should be sent to the Wildlife Management Branch of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment at the following address:

Wildlife Management Branch
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
GPO Box 44, Hobart 7001
Ph: 1300 368 550
Email: wildlife.reception@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au
Visit: www.dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

The Wildlife Management Branch will provide advice about submitting an application.

² Details of how to prepare these files is provided in the *Policy and Procedures for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Vertebrate Wildlife in Tasmania* (DPIPWE 2011).



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**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND
CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water
and Environment

GPO Box 44, Hobart 7001

Ph: 1 300 368 550

Email: wildlife.reception@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

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