

Rewilding Norfolk: closing management knowledge gaps for faunal restoration on islands

Project information



Resilient
Landscapes

National Environmental Science Program



Coastline at Kingston – Norfolk Island. Photo: Bruce/Adobe Stock.

Rodents have been responsible for the extinction of several bird species on Norfolk Island. We are investigating the best strategies to effectively manage rats and other invasive predators on Norfolk Island to help save other threatened species and aid in the long-term rewilding of Norfolk.

Rodents on Norfolk

Predation by rats and mice is one of the most serious threats to biodiversity on islands around the world, including Norfolk Island. It affects both animals and plants, with many having been driven extinct, including birds such as the white-chested white-eye, Norfolk Island kaka and Tasman starling. Rats are a primary threat to the Norfolk Island green parrot, a priority species under the Australian Government's *Threatened species action plan 2022–2032*. The green parrot and many other species face extinction unless action is taken.

Rewilding Norfolk

This project is identifying the significance of rat re-invasions from sites adjacent to Norfolk Island National Park, determining which control activities yield better outcomes and investigating the roles of cats as predators of rodents and native wildlife.

This information will contribute to the development of Norfolk Island National Park's strategy for integrated pest control and the new *Norfolk Island region threatened species recovery plan*.

The successful management of threats to Norfolk Island's ecosystems would pave the way for full-scale

ecological restoration ('rewilding'), by reintroducing species that have are locally extinct or surrogate species to replace them. Such rewilding projects offer an optimistic agenda for conservation research.



Norfolk Island green parrot. Photo: Paul W Kerr/Adobe Stock.

Key research goals

To address the challenges presented by rodent predation on Norfolk Island, this project is:

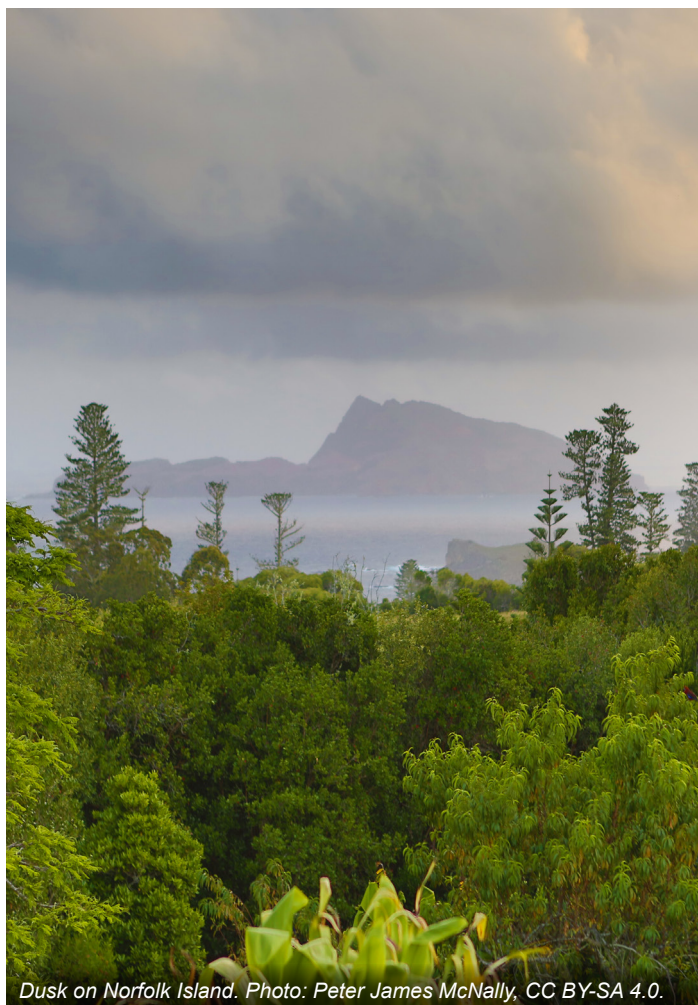
- collecting data on rodent population dynamics, diet, the impacts of baiting and reinvasion of control sites
- modelling the optimal rodent control strategy on Norfolk Island
- assessing bird species abundance
- conducting a literature review to determine the ecologically equivalent species for rewilding on Norfolk Island.

What is the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub?

The Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) funds environment and climate research. NESP currently supports 4 multi-disciplinary research hubs, each hosted by an Australian research institution. The program:

- provides evidence for the design, delivery and on-ground outcomes for environmental programs
- helps decision-makers, including from Indigenous communities, build resilience
- supports positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

This project is funded by the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub, which is hosted by the University of Western Australia. The Resilient Landscapes Hub's research supports the management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and makes them more resilient to extreme events and pervasive pressures.



Further information

This project is being led by Professor Matt Hayward from the University of Newcastle.

This document and further information are available from the project website at nesplandscapes.edu.au/projects/nesp-rlh/rewilding-norfolk.

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Or scan the code:



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