**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION**

2001

Mice and rats are responsible for the extinction of at least 5 endemic bird species and 13 invertebrate species since 1958. Inaction will threaten the unique biodiversity values on which World Heritage listing is based.

**PLANNING, LOGISTICS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

SEP 2017 – APR 2019

Located 775km off the coast of Sydney, Lord Howe Island’s remote location means the project requires extensive planning and logistics management, in conjunction with broad and ongoing community engagement to ensure the greatest possible chance of success.

**SUPPLY SHIP**

Most of the equipment and materials needed for the project will be shipped by the Island Trader.

**THREATENED SPECIES IMPACTED BY RODENTS**

Including the world’s rarest insect, the Lord Howe Island phasmid. Thought to be extinct since 1925, it was rediscovered on a rodent-free island in the Lord Howe Island Group in 2001.

**PLANNING, LOGISTICS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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**AERIAL TEAM**

JUN/JUL 2019

Aerial baiting will focus on the non-settlement areas of the island. Two aerial applications are planned to kill all rodents in the non-settlement area. Baiting is scheduled for winter to decrease the risk to non-target native animals.

**BAITING**

The Rodent Eradication Program combines aerial and ground baiting methodology.

**GROUND TEAM**

MAY – OCT 2019

Bait stations will be placed throughout the settlement area, with hand broadcasting in areas between bait stations and aerial areas.

**AERIAL SUPPORT CREW**

One helicopter engineer, one GIS officer, one leading supervisor, and five bait loaders.

**CORE PROJECT CREW**

Responsible for project planning and logistic management.

**5 OUTCOMES**

AUG 2021

- Increased biodiversity.
- Enhanced world heritage values.
- Removal of rodenticide from Lord Howe Island permanently.
- Removal of domestic rodent impacts and related health concerns.
- Increased numbers and breeding success for birds such as the Kermadec petrel, masked booby and white-bellied storm petrel.
- Increased seeds and seedlings for numerous plant species including the critically endangered little mountain palm.
- Recovery of endemic ground lizards and invertebrates such as land snails.
- Reintroduction of the world’s rarest insect, the Lord Howe Island phasmid.
- Long term benefits to tourism and the island’s economy through improved visitor experience.

**6 CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT CREW**

APR 2019 – AUG 2021

Up to 85% of woodhens and 50-60% of currawongs will be housed during baiting by the Taronga Zoo team, who provide specialist care for the birds during the monitoring phase.

**6 SPECIALY TRAINED DOG TEAMS**

Two permanent biosecurity dogs and their handlers will monitor rodent activity. Specially trained rodent detection dogs and their handlers will also be used after the baiting.

**OUTCOMES**

AUG 2021

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**SETTLEMENT AREAS**

Ground baiting using bait stations or hand broadcasting.

**NON-SETTLEMENT AREAS**

Aerial baiting.

**BAITING INSTRUMENTS**

- Cereal pellets will contain 0.005% brodifacoum.
- The total bait application of brodifacoum is 1.2kg/ha.

**OUTCOMES**

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**PRE-2017**

- 2001-2004 Feasibility study.
- 2012 Funding received.

**2007-2019**

- Additional studies and community engagement.
- Ground baiting.
- Aerial baiting.
- Masked owl eradication.
- Rodent monitoring.

**2012-2017**

- Environment and target health monitoring.
- Currawong (island) release.
- Woodhen release.

**2018-2019**

- Woodhen and currawong capture.
- Environment and target health monitoring.
- Masked owl eradication.

**2019-2020**

- Environment and target health monitoring.
- Woodhen release.

**2020-2021**

- Masked owl eradication.
- Rodent monitoring.
- Outcomes of project declared.

**2021-2022**

- Final detection and rodent monitoring.
- Long term biosecurity monitoring over 3–10 years, plus ongoing rodent and biosecurity detection.

**2022-2024**

- Intensive rodent monitoring will occur for two years, followed by ongoing biosecurity monitoring. If no rodents are detected two years after the initial eradication the project will be deemed a success.

**1900ha**

- OF SURFACE AREA TO BE BAITED

**1.2kg/ha**

- BAIT STATIONS Used across the settlement area.

**2100ha**

- OF SURFACE AREA TO BE BAITED

**150 000 MICE**

- 210 000 RATS

Lord Howe Island phasmid: CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

House mice (Mus musculus) arrived on Lord Howe Island before 1860. Black rats (Rattus ratus) were introduced in 1918 when the ship SS Makambo ran aground.

**10.5 MILLION**

- PROGRAM BUDGET

**INFOGRAPHIC BY MIKE ROSSI / MICROGRAFIK.COM**