

NSW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Final Determination

The Scientific Committee, established by the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (the Act), has made a Final Determination to remove the Silky Mouse *Pseudomys apodemoides* Finlayson, 1932 from the Schedules of the Act by omitting reference to this species from Part 1 of Schedule 1 (Endangered species). The omission of species from the Schedules is provided for by Part 2 of the Act.

The Scientific Committee has found that:

1. The Silky Mouse *Pseudomys apodemoides* Finlayson, 1932 (family Muridae) is described as “Head and body length 65–80 (75) mm. Tail length 90–110 (105) mm. Weight 16–22 (20) g. Silver-grey above, flecked with light brown; white below. Tail white-haired on pink skin, often with 10–15 grey-brown bands. Eyes bulging; ears larger than in House Mouse” (Cockburn and Menkhorst 2008).
2. The Silky Mouse occurs in the mallee-heathland of western Victoria and southeastern South Australia (Cockburn and Menkhorst 2008). An isolated population of the Silky Mouse was also thought to occur 800 km to the northeast, in northern New South Wales (NSW) (Dickman *et al.* 1993; NPWS 2002). The NSW population was known from a single specimen collected in 1956 at Cryon between Burren and Walgett (Dickman 2008). As a consequence *Pseudomys apodemoides* was listed as an Endangered species at the commencement of the Act.
3. The Cryon *Pseudomys* specimen is now regarded as the Blue-grey Mouse *Pseudomys glaucus* Thomas, 1910 (Mahoney and Richardson 1988; Menkhorst and Knight 2001; Dickman 2008; Lamoreux 2008; Woinarski *et al.* 2014; Jackson and Groves 2015). Consequently, there is now no evidence the Silky Mouse *Pseudomys apodemoides* ever occurred in NSW.
4. In view of the above, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the Silky Mouse *Pseudomys apodemoides* Finlayson, 1932 is no longer eligible to be listed as an Endangered species in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Act.

Dr Mark Eldridge
Chairperson
Scientific Committee

Exhibition period: 05/08/16 – 30/09/16

Proposed Gazettal date: 05/08/16

References:

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- Menkhorst PW, Knight F (2001) 'A field guide to the mammals of Australia.' (Oxford University Press: Melbourne)
- Mahoney JA, Richardson BJ (1988) Muridae. In 'Zoological catalogue of Australia. 5. Mammalia' (Ed. DW Walton) pp. 154–192. (Australian Government Publishing Service: Canberra)
- NPWS (2002) Silky Mouse (*Pseudomys apodemoides*) Recovery Plan. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hurstville.
- Woinarski JCZ, Burbidge AA, Harrison PL (2014) 'The action plan for Australian mammals 2012.' (CSIRO Publishing: Melbourne)