

# Risk Assessment: Red-eared firetail finch (*Stagonopleura oculata*)

The following risk assessment determines the risk of Red-eared firetail finch (*Stagonopleura oculata*) to Tasmania using the Bomford model (2008) and assigns threat categories and import classifications for the species.

**The red-eared firetail finch** was assessed as *not dangerous* to humans, and had a *low* establishment risk score. In regard to consequences of establishment there was some conjecture regarding the species ability to interbreed with the beautiful firetail finch. The species was found to pose a *low* consequence of establishment (risk that an established population would cause harm). It was therefore proposed the species be tentatively assigned to a *Low* threat category.

However, as a result of the paucity of information regarding the potential for hybridising with other members of its genus due to a lack of effort or attempts to hybridise the species, the TAP recommends import of the species be permitted however, red-eared firetails must be held under license/permit to ensure that conditions can be applied to prevent housing the red-eared firetail finch with any species of the same genus.

Species:	Red-eared firetail finch ( <i>Stagonopleura oculata</i> )	
Date of Assessment:	May 2012	
Factor	Score	
A1. Risk posed from individual escapees (0-2)	0	Small bird unable to cause injury
A2. Risk to public safety from individual captive animals (0-2)	0	Small bird unable to cause injury
<b>Stage A. Risk posed by individual animals (risk that a captive or escape animal would harm people)</b>	<b>Public Safety Risk Score</b> = A1 + A2 <b>=0</b>	<b>Public Safety Risk Ranking</b> A ≥ 2, Highly Dangerous A = 1, Moderately Dangerous A = 0, Not Dangerous <b>= Not Dangerous</b>
B1. Climate match score (1-6)	3	Note: TAP disagreed with the Climatch information provided in the species profile and used mapping provided in Appendix 1. This did not alter the Climate match score.
B2. Exotic population established overseas score (0-4)	0	Literature search did not show any exotic populations of this species establishing outside natural range.
B3. Overseas range size score (0-2)	0	N/A
B4. Taxonomic class score (0-1)	0	Bird species

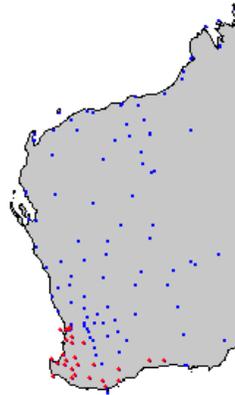
<b>Stage B. Likelihood of establishment (risk that a particular species will establish a wild population in Tasmania)</b>	<b>Establishment Risk Score</b> = B1 + B2 + B3 + B4 <b>=3</b>	<b>Establishment Risk Ranking</b> B = 11-13, Extreme B = 9-10, High B = 6-8, Moderate B ≤ 5, <b>Low</b> <b>= Low</b>
C1. Taxonomic group (0-4)	0	
C2. Overseas range size (0-2)	0	N/A
C3. Diet and feeding (0-3)	0	
C4. Competition for native fauna for tree hollows (0-2)	0	N/A
C5. Overseas environmental pest status (0-3)	0	Species not found in the wild outside its natural range.
C6. Climate match to areas with susceptible native species or communities (0-5)	1	Some potential to impact on native birds.
C7. Overseas primary production (0-3)	0	N/A
C8. Climate match to susceptible primary production (0-5)	1	Potential for impact on cereal crops.
C9. Spread disease (1-2)	2	Bird species.
C10. Harm to property (0-3)	0	Small bird highly unlikely to harm property.
C11. Harm to people (0-5)	0	Incapable of causing harm to people.
<b>Stage C. Consequence of Establishment (risk that an established population would cause harm)</b>	<b>Consequence Risk Score</b> = sum of C1 to C11 <b>= 4</b>	<b>Consequence Risk Ranking</b> C > 19, Extreme C = 15-19, High C = 9-14, Moderate C < 9, Low <b>= Low</b>
<b>ASSIGNED THREAT CATEGORY:</b>	<b>EXTREME</b> <b>SERIOUS</b> <b>MODERATE</b> <b>LOW</b> <b>EXTREME UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE</b>	
<b>PROPOSED IMPORT CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>PROHIBITED</b> <b>IMPORT RESTRICTED TO THOSE LICENCE HOLDERS APPROVED FOR KEEPING SERIOUS THREAT SPECIES</b> <b>IMPORT RESTRICTED TO THOSE LICENCE HOLDERS APPROVED FOR KEEPING MODERATE THREAT SPECIES</b> <b>IMPORT PERMITTED<sup>5</sup></b>	

\* **The Red-eared firetail finch** was assessed as *not dangerous* to humans, had a *low* establishment risk score. In regard to consequences of establishment there was some conjecture regarding the species ability to interbreed with the Beautiful firetail finch (*Stagonopleura bella*) which is naturally occurring in Tasmania. It was therefore proposed the species be tentatively assigned to a **Low** threat category. However, as a result of the paucity of information regarding the potential for hybridising with other members of its genus due to a lack of effort or attempts to hybridise the species, red-eared firetails must be held under license/permit to ensure that conditions can be applied to prevent housing the red-eared firetail finch with any species of the same genus.



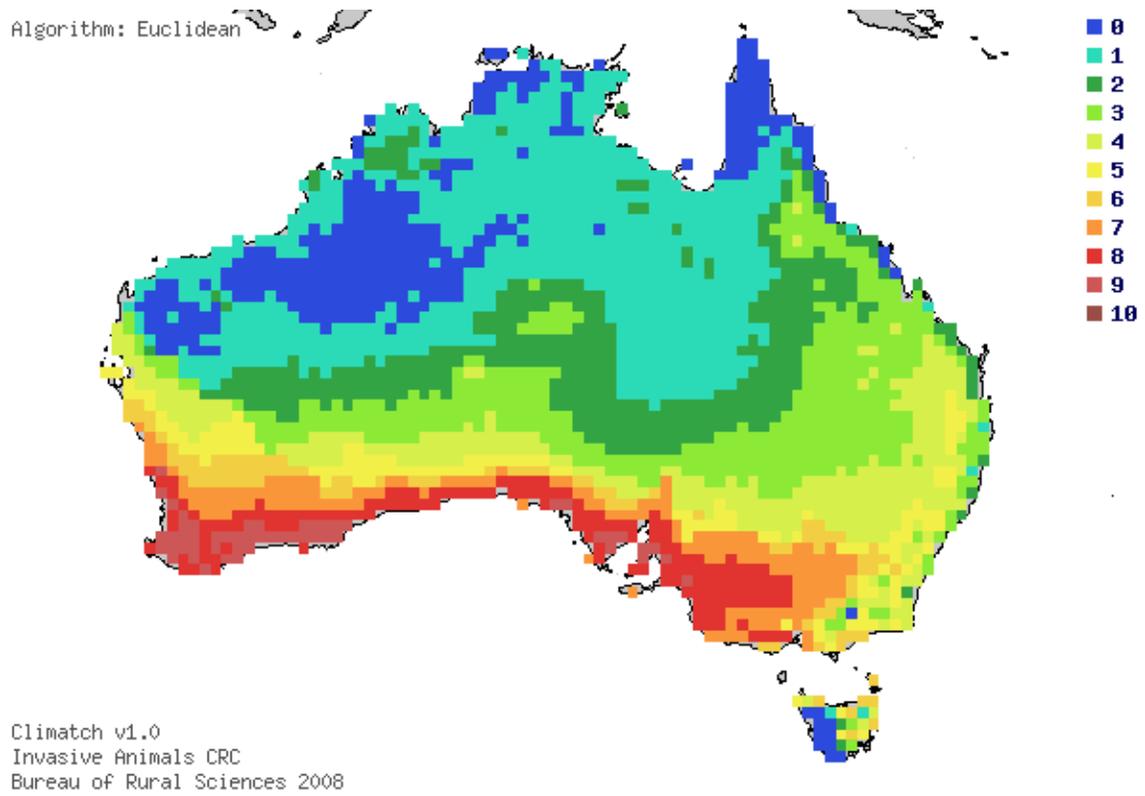
## ASSIGNING SPECIES TO THREAT CATEGORIES

A: Danger posed by individual animals (risk a captive or escaped individual would harm people)	B: Likelihood of establishment (risk that a particular species will establish a wild population in Tasmania)	C: Consequence of establishment (risk that an established population would cause harm)	Threat category	Implications for any proposed import into Tasmania
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Prohibited
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Extreme	High		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Extreme	Moderate		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Extreme	Low		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	High	Extreme		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	High	High		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Moderate	Extreme		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	High	Moderate	Serious	Import restricted to those licence holders approved for keeping serious threat species
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	High	Low		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Moderate	High		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Moderate	Moderate		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Moderate	Low		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Low	Extreme		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Low	High		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Low	Moderate		
Highly, Moderately or Not Dangerous	Low	Low		
Moderately or Not Dangerous	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Import restricted to those licence holders approved for keeping moderate threat species
Moderately or Not Dangerous	Moderate	Low		
Moderately or Not Dangerous	Low	Moderate		
Moderately Dangerous	Low	Low		
<b>Not Dangerous</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Import permitted*</b>
Unknown	Any value	Any value	Extreme until proven otherwise	Prohibited
Any Value	Unknown	Any value		
Any Value	Any value	Unknown		
Unassessed	Unassessed	Unassessed		



Climatch v1.0  
Invasive Animals CRC  
Bureau of Rural Sciences 2008

**Figure 1:** Showing distribution source map used by Technical Assessment Panel



**Figure 2:** Showing CLIMATCH output map used by Technical Assessment Panel

