New Holland Mouse (NHM) populations are declining rapidly in all states, with a 99% reduction in mice in Tasmania, and seven out of 12 known Victorian populations now extinct. However, new populations of this shy native rodent have been found in the past few years, highlighting how little we know about the species and its range. Sadly, remaining populations of the endangered NHM are declining and are highly unstable due to habitat destruction, inappropriate fire regimes and introduced predators, like cats and foxes. By boosting NHM numbers and the number of populations, and inspiring people to learn and care about them, we can secure a bright future for this sweet and tiny mouse.
Produced a full genome sequence for the

Produced live cell cultures and induced pluripotent stem cells from tissue samples from an extinct population that were cryopreserved for over 20 years.

Rediscovered the NHM at The Lakes National Park after 20 years with no sightings.

Discovered a new population at Sperm Whale Head.

Analysed genetic differences within and between NHM populations.

Produced live cell cultures and induced pluripotent stem cells from tissue samples from an extinct population that were cryopreserved for over 20 years.

Produced a full genome sequence for the NHM; a first for any species.

Commenced planning and site inspections for the reintroduction of the NHM to its former range.

The following critical next steps will enable Zoos Victoria, along with our partners, to protect the NHM and improve the future of this tiny and mighty mouse:

Monitor the New Holland Mouse in the wild. $180,000

Reintroduce the New Holland Mouse to the Mornington Peninsula. $220,000

Develop a long-term monitoring program. $20,000

Restore genetic diversity lost from an extinct population. $20,000 p.a

Commence captive breeding (+if required) for reintroduction. $80,000

Help people get to know and love the New Holland Mouse. $40,000

Investigate sites for New Holland Mouse. $60,000

Develop and deliver a community engagement plan. $10,000

How can I help?

We are working hard to support wild populations, improve genetic health and increase the focus on this beautiful native mouse. You can support our Wildlife Conservation Master Plan 2019–2024 by donating at: zoo.org.au/donate

Total cost over five years $730,000

$20,000

$20,000

$20,000

$80,000

$40,000

$60,000

$10,000

Find out more
zoo.org.au/fightingextinction

Zoos Victoria is committed to Fighting Extinction

We are focused on working with partners to secure the survival of our priority species before it is too late.

With its large eyes, big rounded ears and bi-coloured pink and dusky brown tail, the New Holland Mouse is a beautiful rodent native to small areas of the heathlands, woodlands and vegetated sand dunes of south eastern Australia. Sadly, numbers of this precious mouse have declined rapidly and many populations are now extinct. Zoos Victoria is working with partners and PhD students to find the remaining populations and protect them for the future.