

NSW ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Roger McGovern

1/67 Cremorne Road

Cremorne NSW 2090

Ref: NSWORAC582

Date: 06-01-14

MEMORANDUM TO: Brook Whyllie

c.c.

M. Roderick

R. Cooper

A. Morris

A. Palliser

C. Brandis

A. Rogers

A. Richardson

NSW ORAC CASE 582– Blue Petrel (*Halobaena caerulea*)

This report details the sighting of a Blue Petrel by Brook Whyllie and all those on the Sandra K around 36.7km SSE of Wollongong Harbour on June 22, 2013. The bird was well observed by all on board over a period of 30 minutes and the excellent photographs and clear description leave no doubt as to the bird's identity.

The committee accepted this record unanimously and thanks Brook for taking the time to prepare an excellent and thorough submission complete with diagnostic photographs. Although this is the 25th confirmed record for NSW, this species is much rarer than that figure would suggest as previous sightings have come in irruptions, the greatest of which was eleven records in 1998, with similar events in 1954 and 1973. This is the first confirmed record for NSW since the 1998 event.

ACCEPT

NSW ORAC Secretary

Roger McGovern