

Memorandum to: The Director of BirdLife Australia
From: Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)
Date: 31st October 2013

Voting Members: Danny Rogers David Bishop
 Jeff Davies Andrew Silcocks
 Tony Palliser Mike Carter
 David James Rohan Clarke

Cc.

Submission No 776: Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* off Wollongong NSW. 26th February 2005. Submitted by: Nikolas Haass (on behalf of Peter J. Milburn and Michael C. Double).

Verdict: Accepted

This case relates to a Westland Petrel, *Procellaria westlandica*, photographed at sea by Peter J. Milburn and Michael C. Double off Wollongong, NSW on the 26th February 2005.

The extent of black on the bill, head shape and accurate size estimations clinched the identification and ruled out the very similar Black Petrel *P parkinsoni*, which was also seen on the same trip.

Seven members voted in favour of acceptance, agreeing that the features mentioned supported the identification of what can be a very difficult bird to identify. The one dissenting member felt that the images did not rule out Black Petrel conclusively as the bird was not directly compared with that species and the images were too dark.

This is the 10th record of this species to be accepted by BARC.

References and Bibliography:

- Enticott, J. & Tipling, D. 1977. *Photographic Handbook of the Seabirds of the World*, New Holland, London.
- Harrison, P. 1989. *Seabirds of the World: A Photographic Guide*. Christopher Helm, London.
- Marchant, S. & P.J. Higgins. (Eds). 1990. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds*, Volume 1 (part A). Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Tony Palliser