

DARK SKY SO SHEARWATERS FLY

JESSICA MCKELSON
GENERAL MANAGER CONSERVATION

Phillip Island
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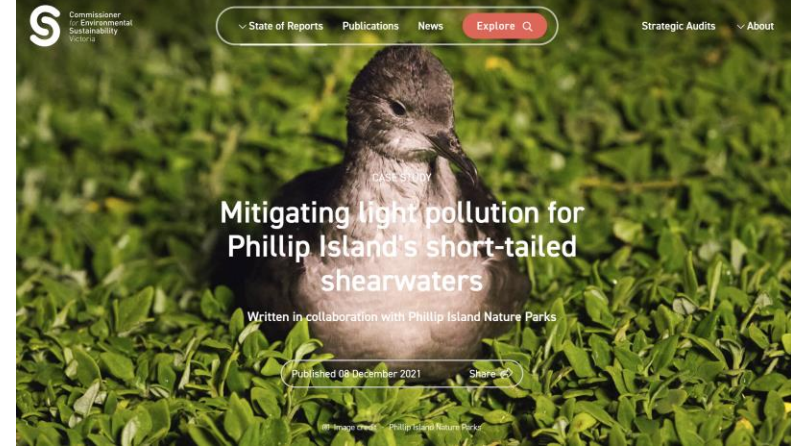
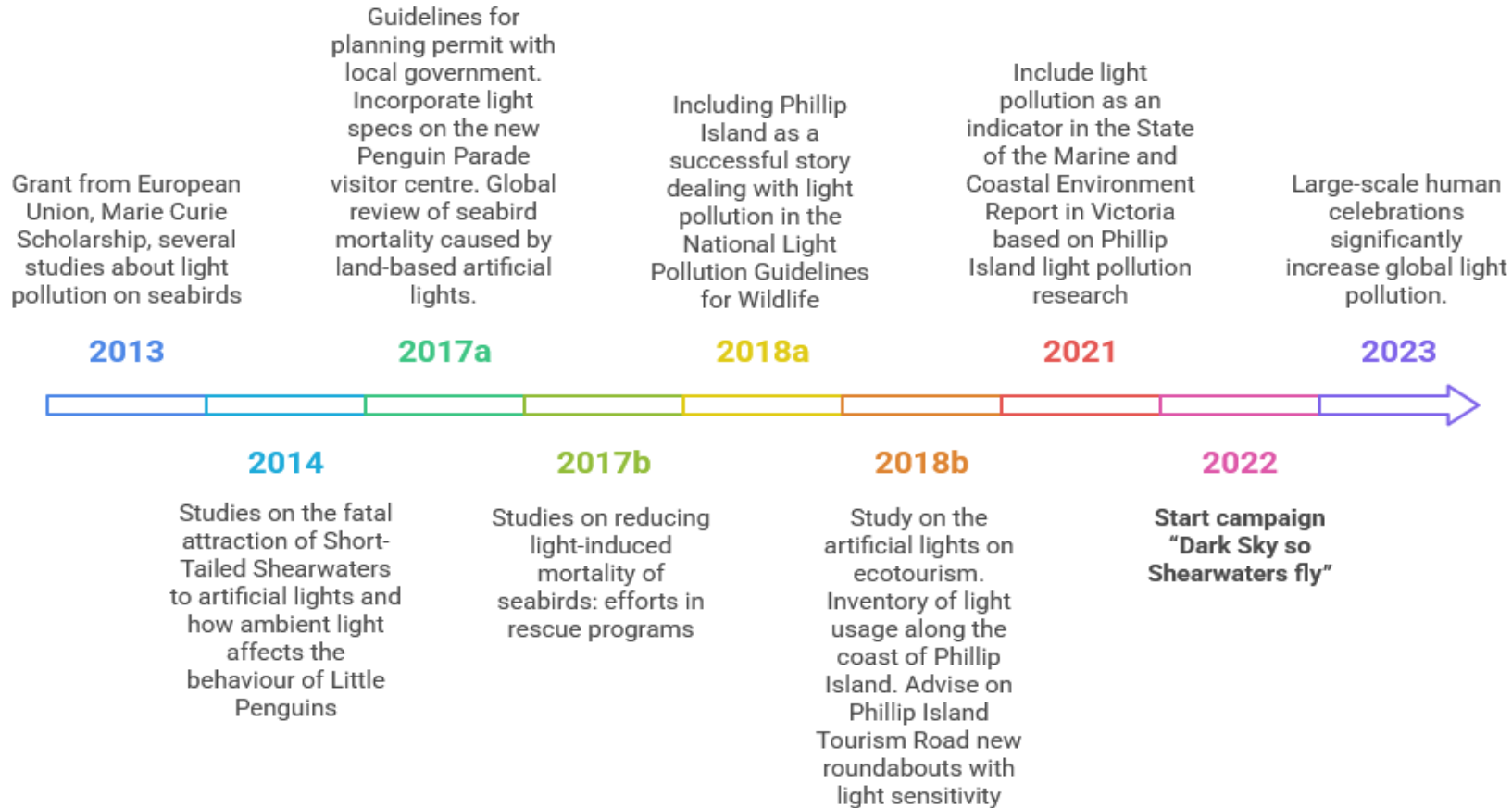




Acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather today, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung & Bunurong peoples. I pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Phillip Island Light Pollution Awareness and Mitigation



Fatal Attraction of Short-Tailed Shearwaters to Artificial Lights

Airam Rodríguez, Graeme Burgan, Peter Dann, Roz Jessop, Juan J. Negro, Andre Chiaradia
Published: October 15, 2014 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0110114>

Penguin colony attendance under artificial lights for ecotourism

Airam Rodríguez^{1,2}, Ross Holmberg¹, Peter Dann¹, André Chiaradia¹
Affiliations + expand
PMID: 29603671 DOI: 10.1002/jez.2155

Seabird mortality induced by land-based artificial lights

Airam Rodríguez, Nick D. Holmes, Peter G. Ryan, Kerry-Jayne Wilson, Lucie Faulquier, Yovana Murillo, André F. Raine, Jay F. Penniman, Verónica Neves, Beneharo Rodríguez, Juan J. Negro ... See all authors
First published: 02 February 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12900> | Citations: 128

Large-scale human celebrations increase global light pollution

Francisco Ramírez, Yago Córdón, Diego García, Airam Rodríguez, Marta Coll, Lloyd S. Davis, Andre Chiaradia, Josep L. Carrasco
First published: 15 August 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10520> | Citations: 1



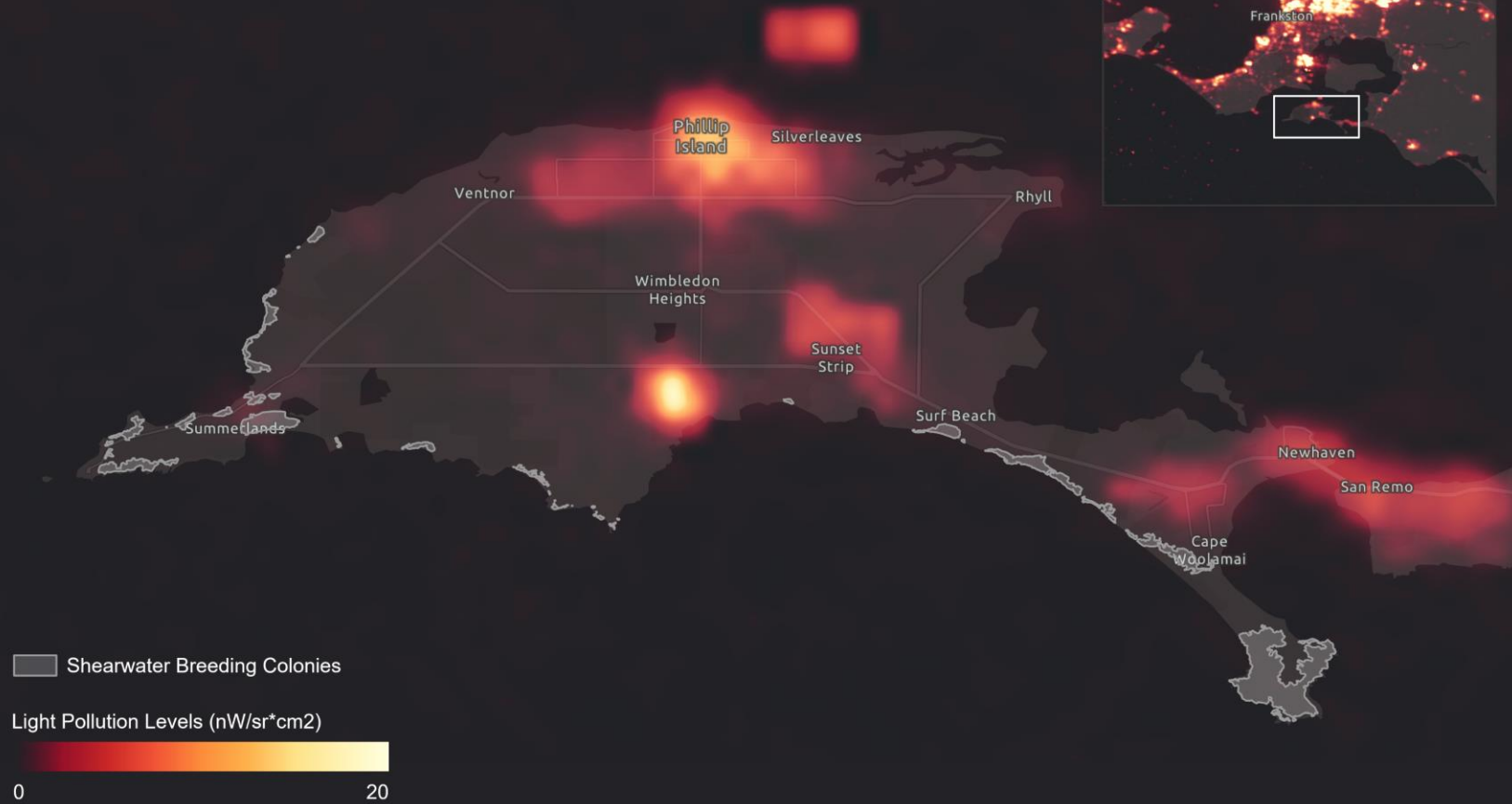


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Light Pollution

Phillip Island 2023



Maximum light pollution levels taken from an annual cloud-free composite of VIIRS night time lights for the year of 2023 produced by Earth Observation Group (available at: eogdata.mines.edu/products/vnl/). The maximum light pollution levels are in brackets (nW/sr*cm²). doi:10.3390/rs13050922. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community





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DARK SKY SO SHEARWATERS FLY

*19 April - 10 May**



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SHEARWATER FLIGHT PATH

Are you in the flight path?



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2022 ~ YEAR 1

Campaign Objectives

- Encourage residents and businesses to actively support the shearwater migration by switching off lights and driving cautiously.
- Increase awareness of light pollution within our local community.
- Attract support from key stakeholders and groups to turn off lights e.g. Bridge lights, foreshore lights



TARGETING LOCAL BUSINESS

- 25+ businesses located in the flight path have turned off their lights during the bird's departure.
- Social and digital media campaign for 3 weeks sets baseline data for online presence.
- Attract at least 3 partners to support the campaign



2023 ~ YEAR 2

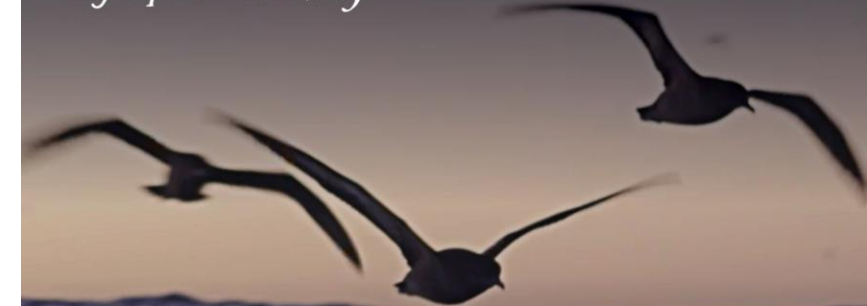
Campaign Objectives

- To enlist 30+ local businesses turn off their lights.
- Mail DL Flyer to 3,200 residents in the flight path
- Partnerships to support the campaign.
- Increase media coverage.



DARK SKY SO SHEARWATERS FLY

19 April - 10 May*



Support the Shearwater Great Migration

Turn off outdoor lights at home and at work

Drive slowly and be cautious on the roads



*Flight times can vary - check our website for exact 'lights out' dates

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#PhillipIslandNP

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**BASS
COAST**

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2024 ~ YEAR 3

Campaign Objectives

- To enlist 35+ local businesses turn off their lights.
- Letter box drop to households ~ 2000 recipients.
- Partnerships continue to support the campaign.



DARK SKY SO SHEARWATERS FLY 19 April - 10 May*

Support the Shearwater Great Migration

Turn off outdoor lights at home and at work

Drive slowly and be cautious on the roads

If you find an injured shearwater, please call Phillip Island Nature Parks Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre on 0409 558 482 (7.30am to 4pm daily) or the Wildlife Victoria hotline on 03 8400 7300 after hours.

*Flight times can vary - check FB event for exact 'lights out' dates.

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MORE INFO penguins.org.au

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BASS COAST

Why shearwater chicks need our help more than ever

ONE of the bravest journeys in all of the natural world is about to begin.

Tens of thousands of short-tailed shearwater chicks from Phillip Island are taking off on their maiden long-distance flight, a 14,000 kilometres epic to Alaska, without anyone to show them the way.

But we can at least help to get them on their way by supporting Phillip Island Nature Parks 'Dark Sky So Shearwaters Fly' campaign which already has strong support from statutory authorities, local businesses and individuals.

This year the annual lights out campaign will run from April 19 to May 10, and will ask residents and businesses in the bird flight path to switch off their lights for up to 10 nights to minimise risks to the seabirds and to motorists.

Each year, shearwater chicks make their 14,000km



As the autumn winds rise, so do thousands of short-tailed shearwater chicks, beginning their amazing 14,000km journey north. Here's how you can help make the annual migration a success.

looking for your help by turning off external lights at home and around businesses.

According to Dr Sutherland, it had been a tough year for shearwater breeding, so all help is needed to ensure the fledglings made a safe, successful trip north.

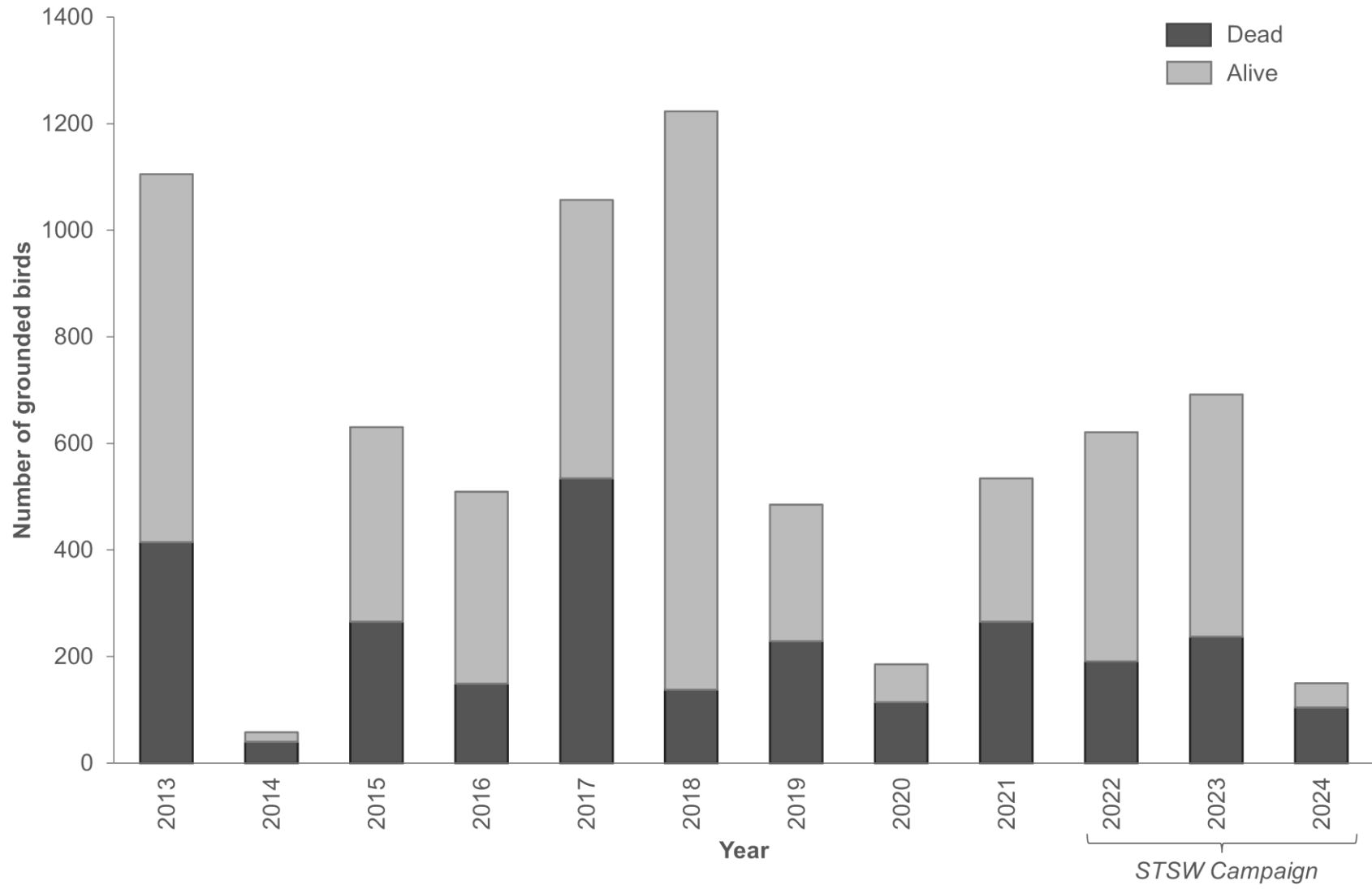
two had to later be euthanised due to extensive injury. Another 237 birds were found dead on the roads after being hit by cars.

Cape Woolamai and the Penguin Parade were hotspots for live rescues, while dead seabirds were re-

and the local community as part of the Shearwater Rescue Program.

Dr Sutherland said recently he wanted to have 35 businesses signed up to support the campaign, and pledge to turn their lights off, but already that number was offi-





2025 ~ YEAR 4

Campaign Objectives

- To enlist 50+ local businesses to turn off their lights by extending the campaign to a whole island approach.
- Strengthen conversation with local government to influence development of best practice lighting across the Island.
- Letter box drop to households ~ 2000 recipients.
- Community Awareness Workshop.
- Partners continue to support the campaign.
- Share this **'Toolbox'** so others communities can adopt for their local community.



'DARK SKY SO SHEARWATERS FLY'
Community Awareness Workshop

Phillip Island Nature Parks welcomes you to join us to learn about;

- Short-tailed shearwater migration
- 'Dark sky so shearwaters fly' conservation
- Wildlife sensitive lighting

When: Tuesday 6th May 2025
Time: 1.00 - 3.00 pm
Location: Theatre, Penguin Parade Visitor Centre
1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands

Phillip Island NATURE PARKS | RSVP to community@penguins.org.au **we-ef** 



PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Dark Sky so Shearwaters Fly – Campaign Partners

- WE_EF Lighting
- Phillip Island Conservation Society
- Bass Coast Shire Council

Dark Sky so Shearwaters Fly – Campaign Supporters

- SP Ausnet
- Victorian Ornithological Research Group (VORG)
- Victorian State Government - Department of Transport and Planning
- Local community groups and local businesses
- Australasian Dark Sky Alliance
- Media Banc
- Phillip Island Nature Park Volunteers
- WIRES



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AusNet



Department
of Transport
and Planning

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