**Conservation Significance**
The AMLR distribution is part of a limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA. The species has been described as ‘probably declining’ within the AMLR. Geographically isolated in the AMLR.

**Description**
Small, sexually dimorphic honeyeater. Most closely resembles the Black-chinned Honeyeater but adults of both subspecies of White-naped Honeyeater are smaller, the white nape does not extend all the way to the eye and eye wattle is red (bare skin). Eye wattle of Black-chinned Honeyeater is blue (Higgins et al. 2001). Call consists of several distinctive calls, the most common being described as ‘tserp’ or ‘sherp’ (Higgins et al. 2001; Slater et al. 1989).

**Distribution and Population**
Occurs in eastern, southeast and southwest Australia (Keast 1968). This subspecies also occurs throughout eastern Australia (Schodde and Mason 1999).

Occurs throughout the AMLR but predominantly in the higher elevations.

Has probably been no change in its overall distribution in the MLR. Probably only ever locally common in the MLR due to the distribution of its preferred habitat. However, vegetation clearance has probably reduced its absolute abundance in the region (Attwood and Cale 2002).

**Biology and Ecology**
Most commonly seen in small groups of two or three individuals, but also sometimes in larger groups. Use a large home range which is larger in the non-breeding season (~12 ha) than in the breeding season (~6 ha). Based on the same group of birds, there are areas of more intense use, or core areas of activity, within the home range. Spend approximately 90% of their time in areas totalling about 0.4 hectares in the breeding season and 2.5 hectares in the non-breeding season. Males aggressively defended breeding sites, but generally not aggressive at other times (Willoughby 2005).

Breeding season from July to August or to January (Simpson and Day 1999; Higgins et al. 2001). Nests usually built in the drooping, outer foliage of, primarily Eucalypts, but also mistletoes and occasionally other species. Fur from live animals, apparently with a preference for white fur, is used in the nest (Higgins et al. 2001). Clutch size usually two to three, and incubation is approximately 14 days (Higgins et al. 2001). The incidence of communal breeding has not been established, although it does occur (Higgins et al. 2001; Willoughby 2005).

Feed on nectar resources, and in the absence or lack of nectar, spends much of its foraging time gleanig leaves or bark and probing under bark for arthropods. Mainly uses tree species with the highest levels of
foliage nutrients, generally where soil fertility was highest (Recher et al. 1996).²

Seasonal fluctuations of honeyeater numbers (based on reporting rates) in the AMLR has been recorded. An increase occurs in April and May, and a decrease in September and October (Ford 1977; Ford and Paton 1977).²

Aboriginal Significance
Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Kaurna, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk Nations. Also occurs close to the border of Nganguraku Nation.³

Threats
Reasons for population decline and continuing threats include:

- habitat loss or degradation and fragmentation: the loss of extensive areas of woodland and forest on better soil types which is regarded as ‘good’ habitat for this species (especially areas with Eucalyptus viminalis) (Long 1998; Paton et al. 1999; Armstrong et al. 2003; Paton et al. 2004)²
- interspecific competition: especially with New Holland Honeyeaters, a widespread and abundant species (accounts for 56% of observed aggressive interactions (Willoughby 2005)); as woodlands continue to degrade throughout the MLR, with many small clearances creating more edges, aggressive species, such as Noisy Miner (Manorina melanocephala) and Red Wattlebird (Anthochaera carunculata), may encroach more on White-naped Honeyeater habitat (Willoughby 2005)²
- habitat modification: especially invasion of woody weeds which decrease the habitat value (but increase it for New Holland Honeyeaters)²
- competition for food: the growing populations of Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) in the AMLR is now damaging certain preferred Eucalypt species, specifically Eucalyptus viminalis and E. leucoxylon (Possingham et al. 1996, Armstrong et al. 2003).²

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Regional Distribution

Map based on filtered post-1983 records.² Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species’ distribution within the AMLR.

References
Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).