

# SOME OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S THREATENED ANIMAL SPECIES



# BANDED HARE-WALLABY / MUNNING (MALA)

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus*
- ◆ **Description:** Nocturnal, small marsupial with a short nose and grey fur speckled with yellow and silver.
- ◆ **Diet:** Herbivore; grasses and shrubs.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Under thickets of *Acacia* on sandplains. Previously found in south-west Australia but now only found on a number of islands in Shark Bay (Bernier, Dorre, & Faure Islands).
- ◆ **Threats:** Introduced species (feral cats, foxes, black rats), fires, & disease.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** There were no banded hare wallabies on Faure Island but a population was successfully introduced in 2004 and are doing well.



# BILBY

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Macrotis lagotis*
- ◆ **Description:** Nocturnal, small marsupial with a long snout, big rabbit-like ears, and a long tail; bilbies tend to be grayish brown in color.
- ◆ **Diet:** Omnivore; insects, seeds, spiders, bulbs, fruit, fungi, and very small animals.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Burrows in diverse habitats from Mitchell grass to stony downs, sandplains, & dunefields; in Northeastern WA and central NT.
- ◆ **Threats:** Changing fire regimes, competition with herbivores for resources, foxes & feral cats.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** They do not drink water at all, getting all their moisture from Diet.



# BLACK-FOOTED TREE-RAT (DJINTAMOONGA)

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Mesembriomys gouldii*
- ◆ **Description:** A large, nocturnal, arboreal, native rodent, on average between 250–310 mm and 650–880g. They have grey fur with black ears and black tail with a white tip.
- ◆ **Diet:** Mostly herbivore; fruits and seeds with some invertebrates, flowers, and grasses.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Savanna lands in dense foliage where they make their homes in the holes of trees. Ranging from the Kimberley, WA to Cape York, QLD.
- ◆ **Threats:** Feral cats and habitat decline.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** They are very strong and quick, mother's frequently sprint with their children clutched onto her belly.



# BLUE WHALE

- ◆ **Listing:** Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Balaenoptera musculus*
- ◆ **Description:** Incredibly large, average size is 25 m, baleen whale that is blue-grey with light gray mottling.
- ◆ **Diet:** Carnivores; eat zooplankton and small fish.
- ◆ **Habitat:** All oceans but are not usually found in the arctic region.
- ◆ **Threats:** Commercial whaling.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to exist; the largest blue whale was over 181 tons and 31 m long.



# BOODIE / BURROWING BETTONG

- ◆ **Listing:** Near Threatened
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Bettongia lesueur*
- ◆ **Description:** Small, rat-like marsupial yellowish-brown in color with a little grey underbelly. They have rounded ears and a long tail.
- ◆ **Diet:** Omnivore; mainly seeds, fruits, flowers, tubers, termites, roots, fungi, grasses.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Formerly widespread but now thought to be extinct on mainland Australia; populations on Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bary & Barrow Island (Pilbara Coast). A subspecies also lives on Barrow Island.
- ◆ **Threats:** Feral cats, foxes, fire and disease.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The boodie lives in burrows and sometimes builds a complex underground network of tunnels underground.



# BRUSH-TAILED RABBIT-RAT (PAKOOMA)

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Conilurus penicillatus penicillatus*
- ◆ **Description:** A moderately large (150 g), nocturnal, partly arboreal species. The rat has long ears, brown fur, and a long brush-tipped tail.
- ◆ **Diet:** Omnivore; mainly seeds, fruits, flowers, termites, grasses, and foliage.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Primarily resides in tree hollows of lowland eucalypt forests and woodlands. Found in the Cobourg Peninsula (NT), the Mitchell Plateau & Prince Regent National Park (WA). Also found in small populations in Papua New Guinea.
- ◆ **Threats:** Changing fire regimes, invasive herbivores, & feral cats.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The brush-tailed rabbit-rat thrives in monsoonal climates.



# FIN WHALE

- ◆ **Listing:** Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Balaenoptera physalus*
- ◆ **Description:** Incredibly large, second only to the blue whale, baleen whale. Fin whales can range from brownish to dark or light grey with a white stomach. They are about 19 m long.
- ◆ **Diet:** Carnivores; eat zooplankton and small fish.
- ◆ **Habitat:** All oceans but are not usually found in the tropics, aside from the cool waters of Peru.
- ◆ **Threats:** Commercial fishing/whaling.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The fin whale is one of the fastest whales and can reach speeds up to 41 km/h although rates of 46 km/h have been recorded.





# GILBERT'S POTOROO (BADARU)

- ◆ **Listing:** Critically Endangered (Australia's most endangered marsupial)
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Potorous gilbertii*
- ◆ **Description:** Very small, nocturnal, brown to gray in color with long hind feet, strong claws, and a thin pointed snout.
- ◆ **Diet:** Herbivore; eat a variety of truffle-like fungi and sometimes berries.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Dense shrubland on the slopes of Mount Gardner.
- ◆ **Threats:** Foxes, feral cats, fires & habitat destruction.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** There only 30-40 of them left in the world.



# GOLDEN BANDICOOT (WINTARRU)

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Isoodon auratus auratus* & *Isoodon auratus barrowensis*
- ◆ **Description:** Small (19-30 cm), nocturnal, and solitary ground-dwelling marsupials. They are golden-brown in color with long hind feet and a thin pointed snout.
- ◆ **Diet:** Omnivore; insects, small mammals & reptiles, sea turtle eggs, roots & tubers.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Limestone caverns/crevices of the high rainfall areas of the Kimberley and on Barrow and Middle Islands.
- ◆ **Threats:** Foxes, feral cats & changing fire regimes.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The golden bandicoot is the smallest of its genus.



# HAIRY MARRON (MARRON)

- ◆ **Listing:** Critically Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Cherax tenuimanus*
- ◆ **Description:** Large, black or dark brown with a serrated spine and its characteristic hairy tufts called seta.
- ◆ **Diet:** Omnivore; feeds on dead plants, sometimes living ones too, and other organic decaying material.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Deep waters with sandy shores and rich vegetation of Margaret River.
- ◆ **Threats:** Alterations to habitat and mating with smooth marron species.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** It is one of the world's largest crayfish species, weighing up to 2.5 kg. The smooth and hairy marron were not separated into two species until 2002.



# MARGARET RIVER BURROWING CRAYFISH (DIL)

- ◆ **Listing:** Critically Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Engaewa pseudoreducta*
- ◆ **Description:** Very small (up to 5 cm) freshwater crayfish that are semi-translucent with purple claws and a reddish tail.
- ◆ **Diet:** Omnivores; eats dead and decaying plant matter and organic material.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Swampy, vegetated tributaries of the Margaret River.
- ◆ **Threats:** Alterations to habitat from soil compaction, alterations in water patterns/removal of water, and agriculture.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** Burrowing crayfish aerate the soil which encourages plant growth.



# NIGHT PARROT (WANGAWANG)

- ◆ **Listing:** Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Pezoporus occidentalis*
- ◆ **Description:** A small, mysterious endemic parrot with yellowish green and mottled dark brown feathers.
- ◆ **Diet:** Herbivore; seeds of grasses and herbs.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Largely unknown; non-coastal areas of *Triodia* grass.
- ◆ **Threats:** Foxes, feral cats, & habitat destruction.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** They were believed to have been extinct because none were seen from 1912 to 1979.



# NORTHERN QUOLL (QUOLL)

- ◆ **Listing:** Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Dasyurus hallucatus*
- ◆ **Description:** A predominantly nocturnal, marsupial species that is both terrestrial and arboreal and is brownish grey in color with white spots along its back and a white stomach and a long tail.
- ◆ **Diet:** Primarily carnivorous; eat invertebrates, small mammals, birds, lizards, snakes, and frogs as well as fleshy fruit (like figs).
- ◆ **Habitat:** Northern Australia in Pilbara, WA, the Kimberley region of the Northern Territory, and eastern Queensland. They are most commonly found in rocky areas and eucalyptus forest.
- ◆ **Threats:** Predation by foxes, dogs and cats; disease; land use changes; fire regimes; the northern quolls' consumption of cane toads.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** A mother northern quoll carries



# NUMBAT (NOOMBAT)

- ◆ **Listing:** Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Myrmecobius fasciatus*
- ◆ **Description:** A small-to-medium-sized diurnal marsupial with a distinctive appearance: bottle brush tail, black and white stripes across its back, and a black line through the eye.
- ◆ **Diet:** Carnivore; termites.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Tree hollows and borroughs in the Dryandra Woodland & Perup Nature Reserve (WA).
- ◆ **Threats:** Loss of habitat, predation by foxes & cats, & changing fire regimes.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The numbat is Western Australia's state animal!



# QUOKKA (QUOKKA)

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Setonix brachyurus*
- ◆ **Description:** A nocturnal marsupial that has a rounded back and long tail with brown fur.
- ◆ **Diet:** Herbivore; grasses and leaves.
- ◆ **Habitat:** South-west WA in low-lying vegetation from semi-arid scrub to lush gardens.
- ◆ **Threats:** Predation by foxes and feral cats, changing fire regimes, & habitat loss.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** Rottnest Island is named after quokka's because when the Dutch explored WA they thought that the quokka's were rats, or "*ratte*" in Dutch.





# RUFOUS HARE-WALLABY (MALA)

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Lagorchestes hirsutus*
- ◆ **Description:** A small, nocturnal marsupial that is rufous (reddish brown) and grey in color.
- ◆ **Diet:** Herbivore; seeds, leaves and herbs.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Bernier, Dorre, Trimouille, and the Montebello Islands. They can be found in arid and semi-arid environments in sandy plains, dune deserts, and grasslands.
- ◆ **Threats:** Foxes, feral cats, disease, and droughts caused by climate change.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The rufous-hare wallaby used to be found all over WA and the centre of Australia but the only surviving completely wild populations (that weren't relocated) are on Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay.



# SEI WHALE

- ◆ **Listing:** Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Balaenoptera borealis*
- ◆ **Description:** A relatively large baleen whale that is dark steel gray with white markings on the stomach. They are, on average, 15 m long.
- ◆ **Diet:** Carnivore; zooplankton and small fish.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Most seas except for on in the polar and tropical zones.
- ◆ **Threats:** Commercial fishing/whaling.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The sei whale is the third largest in the baleen family.



# WESTERN QUOLL / CHUDITCH (QUOLL)

- ◆ **Listing:** Near Threatened
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Dasyurus geoffroii*
- ◆ **Description:** Nocturnal marsupial the size of a domestic house cat with big dark eyes, rounded ears, & a tail. The coloring is reddish brown with white spots covering the back.
- ◆ **Diet:** Carnivore; large invertebrates, reptiles (lizards, snakes, etc.), birds, insects, & small mammals.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Southwest tip of WA in the Jarrah forest and surrounding drier woodlands.
- ◆ **Threats:** Habitat alteration (from clearing & changing fire regimes), feral cats & foxes.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The chuditch is WA's largest endemic mammalian carnivore.



# WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM (NGWAYIR)

- ◆ **Listing:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Pseudocheirus occidentalis*
- ◆ **Description:** Nocturnal possum with dark grey brown fur and a tail with a distinctive white tip.
- ◆ **Diet:** Herbivores; leaves, shoots, flowers, and fruit of jarrah, marri, and peppermint trees.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Mainly eucalyptus forests in Southwestern WA.
- ◆ **Threats:** Foxes & habitat destruction.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** Lives by itself during the day in tree hollows or nests and only socializes at night.



# WESTERN SWAMP TURTLE (YARKAN)

- ◆ **Listing:** Critically Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Pseudemydura umbrina*
- ◆ **Description:** Short-necked, freshwater turtle. They vary in color from yellow-brown to almost black.
- ◆ **Diet:** Carnivores; insects, larvae, tadpoles, small crustaceans and aquatic earthworms.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Swan Coastal Plain, WA  
Live in the water during winter/spring and on land when the pools dry.
- ◆ **Threats:** Habitat destruction
- ◆ **Fun fact:** They can live for more than 50 years!



# WHITE-BELLIED FROG (KOOPYAR)

- ◆ **Listing:** Critically Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Geocrinia alba*
- ◆ **Description:** Small frog with dark brown spots on a lighter brown or grey back and a white underside.
- ◆ **Diet:** Carnivores; small insects.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Swampy areas by creeks in Margaret River; a very small area.
- ◆ **Threats:** Habitat destruction and private land ownership
- ◆ **Fun fact:** The white-bellied frog was only discovered in 1980; only 3,000 frogs remain!



# WOYLIE (WALYU)

- ◆ **Listing:** Critically Endangered
- ◆ **Latin Name:** *Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*
- ◆ **Description:** Very small nocturnal macropod light brown in color with long tails, strong claws, and cheek pouches for storing Diet
- ◆ **Diet:** Herbivores; eat a variety of fungi, tubers, bulbs, and seeds.
- ◆ **Habitat:** Open forests and woodlands.
- ◆ **Threats:** Foxes, feral cats & habitat destruction.
- ◆ **Fun fact:** They have very strong tails that they use to carry things to their nests



# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & THE COMPLETE SPECIES LIST

- Complete species list -
  - [https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/Listings/Threatened and Priority Fauna Rankings.pdf](https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/Listings/Threatened_and_Priority_Fauna_Rankings.pdf)
- More information on threatened species -
  - <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
  - <http://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife.aspx>