

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

「AWC to partner with NSW Government in returning extinct mammals to NSW National Parks」

http://www.australianwildlife.org/field-updates/2015/awc-to-partner-nsw-government-in-returning-extinct-mammals-to-nsw-national-parks.aspx?utm_source=Invasive+Animals+CRC+subscriber+list&utm_campaign=3280cd7d68-Feral+Flyer+issue+274+-+11+June+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dca65e59c7-3280cd7d68-36257961



Greater Bilby



Bridled Nailtail Wallaby and young

Bilbies, Numbats and other mammal species which are currently listed as extinct in NSW are set to be returned to the State's National Parks under an historic partnership between Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and the NSW Government.

The initiative will see "extinct" mammals returned to the State's National Parks for the first time in NSW history.

The NSW Environment Minister, the Hon Mark Speakman MP, announced today that the NSW Government will enter into negotiations with AWC to establish large fox and cat-free areas in NSW National Parks, including the largest fox and cat-free area on mainland Australia. AWC is also set to deliver broader land management and science activities across these National Parks.

Within the feral-free areas – protected by specially designed conservation fences - "extinct" mammals including the Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, the Brush-tailed Bettong, the Western Barred Bandicoot and the Western Quoll, as well as the Bilby and the Numbat, can be reintroduced.

For the first time in more than a century, NSW National Parks will once again be home to some of Australia's most iconic mammals.

AWC Chief Executive, Atticus Fleming, said that the partnership between AWC and the NSW Government will represent the urgent, on-ground action that is required to save Australia's endangered mammals.

"This single initiative will play a critical role in saving at least 10 Australian mammals from extinction. Under AWC's proposal:

- 2 species (Bridled Nailtail Wallaby and Western Barred Bandicoot) will have their remaining populations increased by more than 100%.
- At least 6 other species (including the Bilby, Brush-tailed Bettong, Numbat and Greater Stick-nest Rat) will have their remaining populations increased by more than 15%."

“The project is a ground-breaking example of collaboration between the non-profit sector and government to deliver exceptional outcomes for our endangered wildlife.”

“The need for a project like this has never been greater. Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world, with 30 native mammals extinct and around 60 species at risk of extinction.”

The greatest threat to Australia’s endangered mammals is predation by feral cats, along with foxes. The impact of these feral predators means that most endangered mammals are continuing to decline. For example:

- the Numbat population is now less than 1,000 animals; and
- the Brush-tailed Bettong has suffered a catastrophic recent decline from over 200,000 animals to less than 15,000 animals.

The large feral cat and fox-free areas to be established in NSW national parks will provide a secure refuge for new wild populations of endangered mammals. In the longer-term, additional strategies will be developed with the aim of establishing endangered mammal populations outside these core areas and across national parks.

Stay tuned for further details – including an announcement identifying the National Parks where the initiative will be delivered - as AWC and NSW work together to finalise details of this historic partnership.

The NSW Government will also partner with the University of NSW in delivering this important initiative.