

Avon's most wanted

Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)

Description: The Bilby (also known as the Dalgyte) is a very distinctive “rabbit-like” creature with large ears and a pointed nose. Unlike the rabbit, this marsupial has a long tail with a white tip.

These nocturnal creatures dig burrows up to three meters in size to live in during the day, and forage for food (such as insects, fruit and fungi) at night.

Females can breed at six months of age and can produce two young at a time. Young remain in the pouch for two months after which they are deposited in a burrow and suckled for another two weeks.

Conservation Status: **Vulnerable**

Conservation: The Bilby has been adversely affected by fox and feral cat predation. This has led to the Bilby disappearing from much of its known habitat.

It also has to compete with introduced herbivores (livestock and rabbits) for food and quality sites for making burrows.

Captive-bred Bilbies have been used to establish new populations in areas where foxes are controlled.



Photo—Babs & Bert Wells / DEC

If you have seen a Bilby or would like more information, please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation. Merredin: 9041 2488
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This is an Avon Catchment Council project delivered by the Department of Environment and Conservation with investment from the State and Australian Governments through the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality



Department of
Environment and Conservation

