

Avon's most wanted

Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota imbricata*)

Description: This big, non-venomous snake has an average size of two meters, but there have been reports of Carpet Pythons reaching up to four meters long. The colour of these snakes can vary between a dark and pale brown with black patterns throughout the body length and its belly is normally either white or a pale-yellow.

Carpet pythons are found in a variety of habitats and become active during the dawn and dusk. It is most active during the warmer months of the year, but is occasionally spotted sunning itself near or sometimes on roads during winter. It's diet includes a variety of small birds, lizards and mammals. Carpet pythons have heat sensing pits on the sides of their jaw which enable them to identify when prey is nearby.

During spring, a female may produce up to 60 eggs and will coil around them to keep them at the right temperature until they hatch.

Conservation Status: **Specially protected.**

Conservation: Habitat destruction has reduced the amount of available food for carpet pythons. It is also thought that foxes and feral cats prey on smaller pythons. Carpet python's appear to be more numerous where fox baiting occurs.



Photo—R Johnstone

If you have seen a Carpet python or would like more information, please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation.

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