

Avon's most wanted

Chuditch

(*Dasyurus geoffroii*)

Description: Weighing in at about 1.3kg the Chuditch is Western Australia's largest native carnivore. This Marsupial has big ears, a pointed nose and white spots covering its back and head. It's tail is big and bushy and is almost as long as its head and body combined.

The Chuditch will prey on other small mammals, birds reptiles and insects. During early winter, females will give birth to between two and six young. The young will remain in their mothers pouch for about eight weeks. Once they become too big they are deposited in a den, but will leave to fend for their own by early summer. Chuditch have a life expectancy of four years.

Conservation Status: **Vulnerable**

Conservation: This species was originally found throughout Australia. However loss of habitat as well as competition and predation from foxes and cats has lead to a dramatic fall in population numbers. Fox baiting carried out through *Western Shield* has aided in the recovery of the Chuditch.



Photo—Babs & Bert Wells / DEC

If you have seen a Chuditch or would like more information, please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation. Merredin: 9041 2488 Northam 9622 8940

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
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