

Avon's most wanted

Numbat

(Myrmecobius fasciatus)

Description: The Numbat (Western Australia's faunal emblem) is easily identifiable through its white bands across its back, pointed snout and big bushy tail. Unlike other marsupials, the numbat feeds exclusively on termites. They can eat as much as 20,000 termites a day.

Numbats prefer to nest in hollow logs. In January, the mother gives birth to four offspring. When the young are too big for the pouch, they are deposited in hollow logs which they use for shelter and also to look for termites. By December the young are ready to leave the burrow and survive on their own.

Conservation Status: **Vulnerable**

Conservation: The Numbat was originally found throughout Western Australia, South Australia and into New South Wales. Fox predation has been the main cause for the decline in Numbat numbers although land clearing has also reduced suitable numbat nesting sites. Fox baiting, through the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program, captive breeding and reintroduction to its former habitat has resulted in an increase in Numbats.



Photo—Babs & Bert Wells / DEC

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

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Department of
Environment and Conservation

