

Avon's most wanted

Red-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale calura*)

Description: The Red-tailed Phascogale (also known as the Kingo or Red-tailed Wambenger) is a mouse-like creature with a red tail that becomes brush-like with black hair. It has an average head to tail length of 270mm.

This animal prefers wandoo and sheoak woodlands where it can feed on insects, small birds and mammals. Male Red-tailed phascogales only live for one year and die soon after mating. Females will live for a maximum of two years. In this time females will produce up to eight young a year in July. The young will be dependant on their mother until October.

Conservation Status: **Endangered**

Conservation: The Red-tailed phascogale was originally found throughout Western Australia's arid and semi-arid regions, as well as in isolated locations in South Australia, Northern Territory, New South Wales and Victoria. A decline in numbers has been caused by fox and cat predation and changes to habitat associated with clearing and frequent bush fires. A number of Red-tailed phascogale populations have recovered through the successful control of foxes.



Photo—Babs & Bert Wells / DEC

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

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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



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