

THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

Fact Sheet No. 22 **BRUSH-TAILED ROCK-WALLABY** (*Petrogale penicillata*) An endangered species

The Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby

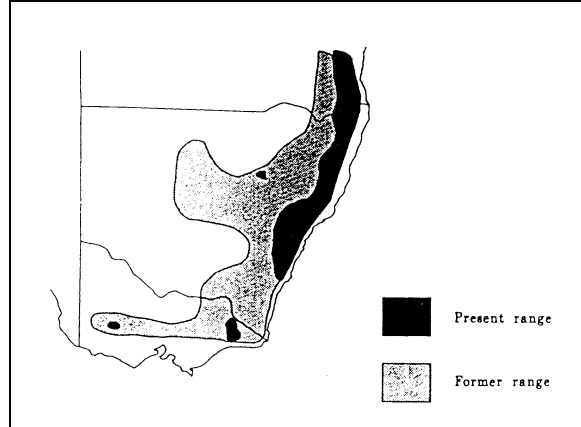
(*Petrogale penicillata*) is a medium sized wallaby with a distinctive dark tail that is usually longer than the head and body and often has a conspicuous brush at the tip. In New South Wales, the fur on the belly is orange and the forepaws and hindlimbs are black. The Swamp or Black Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor* is sometimes mistaken for a Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby but it has a shorter tail, a different posture and when seen up close has different colouration.

The Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby appears to have become extinct in the Canberra Region in only the last few decades but captive animals may be seen at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.



Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies inhabit rocky areas that have abundant ledges, caves and passageways.

The Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby was once common and widespread in the mountainous country of south-eastern Australia. Its range has been severely reduced from the south and west and the species is considered to be locally common only in the north-eastern part of its range. Introduced populations are present in Hawaii and New Zealand.



Conservation threats

Many factors have been considered responsible for the demise of Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies, including the effects of introduced pest animals, inbreeding, and fragmentation of habitat. Changes since the wallabies disappeared, both to the habitat and in the recreational use of areas also may be obstacles to successful reintroduction.

Conservation actions

Environment ACT intends to investigate both the suitability of possible reintroduction sites and the feasibility of re-establishing wild populations that can be maintained at low cost forever.

Environment ACT will contribute to interstate efforts to conserve the species, particularly those involving use of the captive colony at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

Before a species can be successfully re-introduced to an area the factors that caused the initial loss must be dealt with. Effective, long term predator control will be fundamental to any re-introduction program. Once initiated, predator control will need to be sustained indefinitely. Continued control or eradication of feral

For a primary source of information for this Fact Sheet is the conservation **Action Plan** where a full bibliography is available.

Action Plans are available from the Environment ACT Homepage:

<http://act.gov.au/enviro>

Environment ACT Helpline: (02) 6207 9777