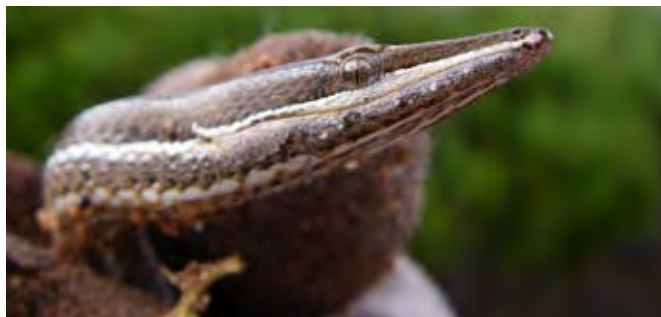




Above Smooth knob-tailed gecko.



Above Chuditch. Below Burton's legless lizard.



More information

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Department of
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Dirk Hartog Island National Park

Return to 1616 Ecological Restoration Project



Island protection



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



PARKS
and
PEOPLE



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Island protection

When Dirk Hartog landed on Western Australia's largest island in October 1616, the island had intact vegetation and a rich mammal fauna.



Since this first European landing on Australian soil, introduced plants and animals have degraded the island and native animals have disappeared.

Return to 1616 is an ambitious program to restore the island's natural ecosystems to how Dirk Hartog would have seen them. Introduced sheep and goats are being removed because their grazing and trampling reduced the food and shelter available for native species. Feral cats are being eradicated as these efficient hunters make it impossible for many native species to survive.

Ten species of small mammals that became extinct on the island will be reintroduced when the feral animals are eradicated. These are the western barred bandicoot, chuditch, mulgara, dibbler, greater stick-nest rat, desert mouse, Shark Bay mouse, heath mouse, woylie and boodie.

Two additional marsupials will also be introduced on the island to improve their conservation status, the mala and banded-hare wallaby.

Above Mulgara. **Below** Western barred bandicoot.



Above Loggerhead turtle hatchlings.

Please help

You can help the ecological restoration project succeed by:

- Not taking any animals (including pets) or plants to the island.
- Making sure your footwear, clothes, packs and camping gear are free of soil, seeds, insects, spiders and other animals.
- Transporting food in clean, sealed plastic or metal containers rather than cardboard.
- Making sure fresh food is free of soil, ants, snails or other small animals.



Boating to Dirk Hartog Island

Please install and check rodent bait stations on board your vessel. Baits need to be replaced every six months to retain potency.



Above Herald Bay.

Taking a vehicle to Dirk Hartog Island



Spaces underneath and inside vehicles accumulate dirt and seeds.

Before driving your vehicle onto the barge, please make sure its underside, radiator, tyres, sump and gearbox guard plates are free of unwanted hitchhikers.

Seat crevices and the floor, including under rubber mats, collect soil, sand and seeds.

Please clean inside your vehicle to prevent transporting unwanted hitchhikers onto Dirk Hartog Island.

