

Brush-tailed mulgara

Dasymercus blythi



Description: Brush-tailed mulgara are muscular, carnivorous marsupials with short round ears and short tapering tails. They are light reddish-brown or tan above and whitish below. Males are generally larger than females.

Diet and Habitat: Brush-tailed mulgara occur in Australia's arid centre. They hunt large invertebrates and small vertebrates, and store fat in their tails which can be thick at the base.

They shelter in burrows during the day and emerge at night to hunt, but they are not completely nocturnal, sometimes sun-bathing during the day near the entrance of their burrow.

Breeding: Female brush-tailed mulgaras give birth to up to six young. Brush-tailed mulgara breed in winter and dispersal of young coincides with peak food availability in spring.

Mulgaras may live for six or more years and are presumed to keep growing throughout their lives.

Distribution: Small scattered populations of mulgaras have been found in arid regions through Central and Western Australia.

The brush-tailed mulgara is proposed for reintroduction to Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project.

Quick facts

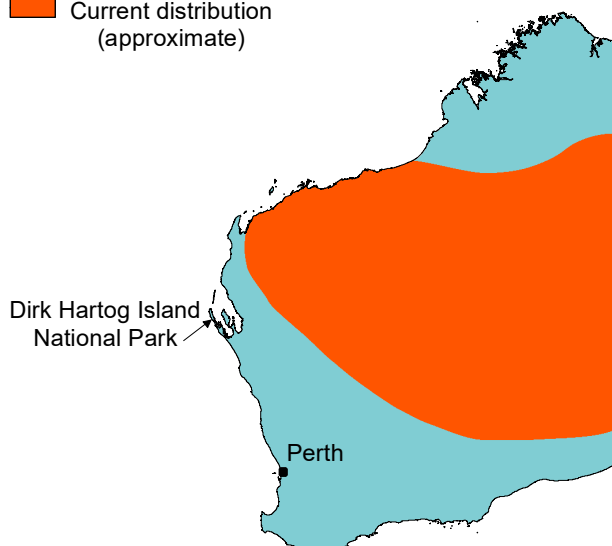
Head-body:	120 - 165mm
Tail:	60 - 100mm
Average weight:	60 - 110g
Gestation:	30 days
Number of young:	up to 6
Weaned:	12 - 15 weeks

Conservation Status

The brush-tailed mulgara is a Priority 4 species that is Near Threatened. This species is close to Vulnerable, but not listed as Conservation Dependent.



Current distribution (approximate)



DID YOU KNOW?

Brush-tailed mulgaras don't need to drink as they can get all the water they need from their food.