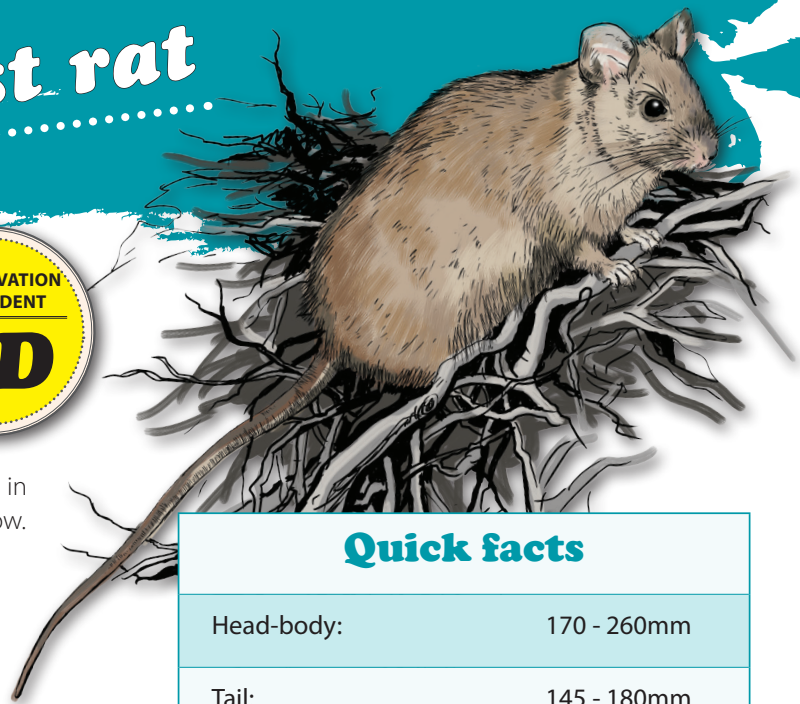


Greater stick-nest rat

Leporillus conditor



Description: The greater stick-nest rat is a native rodent covered in fluffy, yellow-brown to grey fur above, and creamy-white fur below.

It has a blunt snout and large, rounded ears. The tops of its hind feet have distinctive white markings and its tail is shorter than its body length. Their posture at rest is hunched, like a rabbit.

Diet and Habitat: Greater stick-nest rats inhabit semi-arid to arid scrubland with little or no freshwater. They are nocturnal and feed on succulent vegetation and fruits.

Groups of 10–20 build and maintain communal nests that can be 1m high and 1.5m wide. The name “stick-nest” rat refers to the nests they construct out of sticks held together with wee and poo.

Breeding: Pairs establish strong bonds and can breed throughout the year, but mostly in autumn and winter when there is more food.

The young attach themselves to their mother’s teats and are dragged around with her until she deposits them in the nest some time before they are weaned.

Distribution: Greater stick-nest rats were found through south and western arid Australia but became extinct on the mainland in the 1930s.

New populations have been established on Salutation Island in Shark Bay from the Franklin islands in South Australia (SA) and in Mount Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary from St Peter Island (SA).

Reintroductions onto Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project began in 2021.

Quick facts

Head-body:	170 - 260mm
Tail:	145 - 180mm
Average weight:	180 - 450g
Gestation:	44 days
Number of young:	1 - 4
Weaned:	4 weeks

Conservation Status

Livestock trampling nests leaves greater stick-nest rats vulnerable to predation. Along with livestock, rabbits also deplete the stick-nest rat’s food sources.



Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018



Current distribution (approximate)



DID YOU KNOW?

‘Stick-nest rat’ refers to the nest these animals build out of sticks.