

# Return to 1616

## Status of Species

Biodiversity is the variety of plants, animals, micro-organisms and ecosystems that constitute our living environment— is not static; it is constantly changing. It can be increased by genetic change and evolutionary processes, and it can be reduced by threats which lead to population decline and extinction. Our knowledge of biodiversity increases when scientists discover new species.

Australia's biodiversity is currently in decline; in Australia, more than 1,700 species and ecological communities are known to be threatened and at risk of extinction.

The key threats to species are loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitat, invasive species and altered fire regimes. Other threats include unsustainable use and management of natural resources, changes to the aquatic environment and water flows and climate change

Threatened fauna and flora may be listed in any one of the following categories:

[Threatened species under the EPBC Act | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#)



 Shark Bay bandicoot	 Chuditch	 Brush-tailed mulgara	 Dibbler	 Greater stick-nest rat	 Desert mouse	 Shark Bay mouse	 Heath mouse	 Woylie	 Boodie	 Western grasswren
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Search reliable, up-to-date information (such as the *Return to 1616* animal factsheets available from [www.sharkbay.org](http://www.sharkbay.org)) to identify the current status of the *Return to 1616* animals and use arrows to indicate their current status.