

NATIVE ANIMAL ENGINEERS

REBUILDING AN ISLAND

With the removal of feral sheep and goats, plants are growing back, providing food and shelter. With the removal of feral cats, the island is safe for native animals. The *Return to 1616* project has changed the island and 'paved the way' for the return of 13 native animal species over the next 10 years.

Reintroduction of native animals began with hare-wallabies in 2017. Each newly reintroduced animal is an "ecosystem engineer". Their daily activities such as hunting, eating, digging and producing droppings help to change the environment they live in.

Hunters

Carnivorous, top order predators, help to keep the numbers of other native animals in balance.

Excavators

These animals turn over and disturb soil when digging for food or excavating burrows. This helps to improve soil nutrients, wettability and fertility by aerating and mixing leaf litter into the soil.

Gardeners

Vegetarian or herbivorous animals are the "gardeners" of the island, pruning back and trimming the plants they eat.

Insect controllers

Insectivores act as nature's "insecticide" by eating insects that live in leaf litter and soil, and on plants. They recycle insects in their droppings, and in doing so, help to fertilise the soil.

Farmers

Seed eaters are the "unintentional farmers" of the island. They spread plants around by eating their seed and 'planting' them in their nutrient rich droppings.



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Chuditch
Position: Hunter
Duties:

- regulating the population of your co-workers by eating them



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Hare-wallabies
Position: Gardener
Duties:

- pruning and trimming plants



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Shark Bay bandicoot
Position: Excavator
Duties:

- earthmoving for soil improvement
- eating insects



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Woylie
Position: Excavator
Duties:

- earthmoving for soil improvement
- spreading, planting seed
- pruning and trimming plants



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Boodie
Position: Excavator
Duties:

- earthmoving for soil improvement
- spreading, planting seed
- pruning and trimming plants




POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Brush-tailed mulgara
Position: Hunter
Duties:

- earthmoving for soil improvement
- eating insects
- regulating the population of your co-workers by eating them



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Dibbler
Position: Farmer
Duties:

- spreading, planting seed
- eating insects



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Shark Bay mouse
Position: Farmer
Duties:

- spreading, planting seed
- eating insects




POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Desert mouse
Position: Farmer
Duties:

- spreading, planting seed



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Greater stick-nest rat
Position: Farmer
Duties:

- spreading, planting seed
- pruning and trimming plants



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Heath mouse
Position: Farmer
Duties:

- spreading, planting seed



POSITION DESCRIPTION
NAME: Western grasswren
Position: Farmer
Duties:

- spreading, planting seed
- eating insects

