

## What can I do?

If you would like to save the Bilby in Queensland, write to the Queensland Government, Stanbroke Pastoral Company and the AMP Society. Ask them what they are doing to save Queensland Bilbies and suggest that the Store Paddock be turned into a National Park for the future of the Bilby and Australia's unique arid zone habitat.

### Addresses

The Honourable Molly Robson  
Minister for the Environment  
Dept of Environment & Heritage  
PO Box 155 Albert Street  
Brisbane Q 4002

Mr J R Cox  
Managing Director  
Stanbroke Pastoral Company  
GPO Box 155  
Brisbane Q 4000

The Honourable Wayne Goss  
PO Box 185 Albert Street  
Brisbane Q 4002

Mr Ian Burgess, Chairman  
The AMP Society  
600 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Join with the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland in the fight to save the Bilby. Donations to WPSQ are **tax deductible** and can be sent to

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland  
2/133 George Street  
Brisbane Q 4000  
ph (07) 221 0194; fx (07) 221 0701

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Yes, I want to help save the Bilby. Please accept my tax deductible donation to the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose cash cheque credit card debit (please circle one) for the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

Bankcard Mastercard Visa (please circle one)

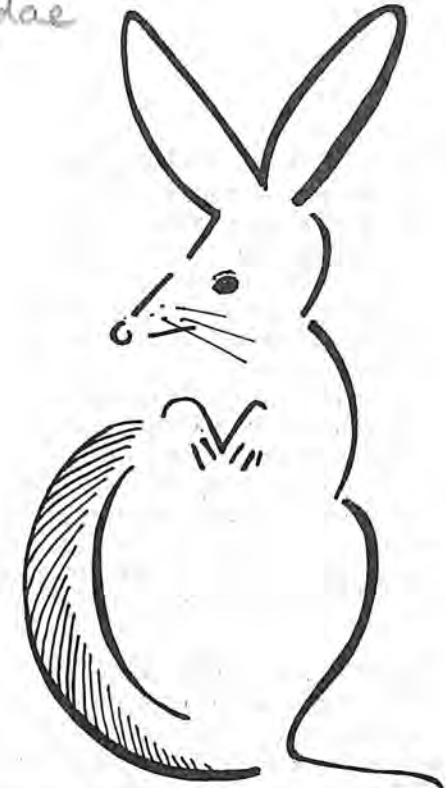
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599-23  
Thylacomyidae

## What is a Bilby?

and why  
should we  
save it?



Two hundred years ago, you wouldn't have needed to ask. The Bilby, a nocturnal native Australian marsupial, was common across 70 percent of the continent.

The Bilby is also known as the Rabbit-eared Bandicoot - for obvious reasons! Along with its trademark large pink ears, the Bilby is recognisable by its soft, silky grey fur; long pointy snout; and two-toned crested tail. It lives in arid and semi-arid regions. Despite its fragile and delicate appearance, it is a powerful digger, excavating deep spiral burrows which protect it from the harsh daytime climate. Bilbies generally prefer solitude and one Bilby may maintain as many as eight burrows. At night, it emerges to search and dig about for food, using its keen sense of smell to locate seeds, bulbs, fruit, fungi, insects and insect larvae.

Bilbies measure 50-85cm from nose to tail - about as long as your arm - but nearly half of that length is tail. Adult females weigh about one kilo; males can weigh up to 2.5kg. Young Bilbies spend about 75 days in their mother's backward-opening pouch. Although there are eight teats in the pouch, there are usually only two young per litter.

## How close is extinction?

Bilbies are now found over only ten percent of their former range. They are extinct in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia and survive only in scattered colonies in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. They are the only remaining arid zone bandicoot on mainland Australia. Five other arid-zone species, including the Lesser Bilby and the intriguing Pig-footed Bandicoot, are either extinct or restricted to islands off the coast of Western Australia. The Bilby is listed as an Endangered Species in the International Conservation Union (IUCN) Red Data Book.

An estimated 500-1000 Bilbies remain in Queensland in a few small scattered populations in the Channel Country. All Queensland Bilby populations are believed to be declining. The only colony thought to be large enough to remain viable is on a grazing property on the Diamantina River called Davenport Downs. A recent report by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage suggested that, without proper conservation measures, Bilbies could be extinct in Queensland within 10-40 years. We may not have even that long.

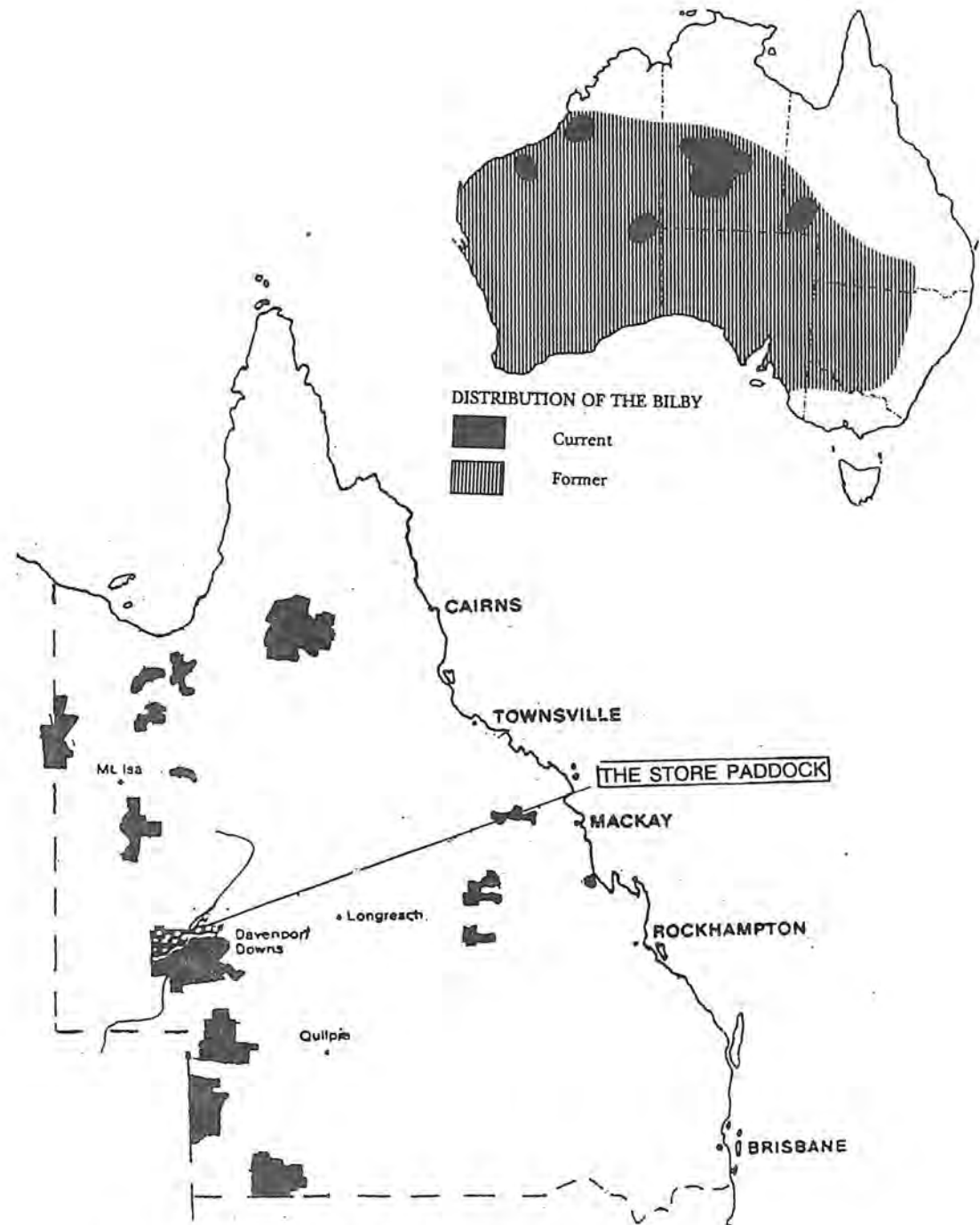
## Can we save the Bilby?

Since European settlement, over 125 Australian species have become extinct. Ninety percent of medium-sized arid zone mammal species such as the Bilby are extinct or threatened with extinction. We cannot afford to lose more.

Bilbies have survived predation by Dingoes. Now they are hunted by feral cats and foxes. Introduced livestock degrade their habitat: rabbits crowd them out of their burrows and graze over their feeding ranges; cattle and sheep graze and trample their burrows.

The largest and most important colony of Bilbies in Queensland share their range with cattle in the Store Paddock at Davenport Downs. The property is owned by Stanbroke Pastoral company, a subsidiary of the AMP Society. Stanbroke owns 17 properties in Queensland, comprising over 8.1 million ha - approximately four percent of the state's land area, more land than is currently protected as National Park. The area occupied by the Bilbies is less than three percent of Stanbroke's land holdings.

If the Store Paddock were acquired as a National Park and managed to conserve Bilbies, not only could Bilbies be saved from extinction but many more native arid zone species, such as the Kowari, the Plains Wanderer and the Yellow Chat, could be saved as well.



STANBROKE PASTORAL COMPANY  
QUEENSLAND LAND HOLDINGS