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Animals of Shark Bay

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Greater bilby



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



For ages 4 and up

Greater bilby

(*Macrotis lagotis*)

The greater bilby is a bandicoot with long ears and a pointed snout. They are a nocturnal marsupial that live in burrows during the day. Bilbies, like other marsupials, have a pouch for their young, although their faces backwards. The bilby is vulnerable to extinction.

Length: 30–45 centimetres

Weight: 0.9–2 kilograms

Diet: Insects, such as termites and ants and their larvae, seeds, bulbs, fruit and fungi.

Distribution Map



Habitat: The bilby prefers arid and semi-arid areas and once lived over about two-thirds of Australia. Now there are only scattered populations in northern Western Australia, central Northern Territory and south-west Queensland.