

## RE-INTRODUCTION AND THE NUMBAT RECOVERY PROGRAM

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Only two significant numbat populations, at Dryandra and Perup, have survived the massive and widespread decline of the species. The numbat's recovery depends on the successful re-establishment of wild populations. A program of re-introduction has been in progress since 1985, first to an area of similar vegetation and then to other areas within the numbat's former range. Fox control has been implemented at each site. The first re-introduction was to the eastern block (2000ha) of Boyagin Nature Reserve, 20km north of Dryandra, where 37 numbats were released between 1985 and 1987. A population appears to have become established there, and numbats have now been recorded in the western block (3000ha), which is separated from the eastern block by 500m of farmland.

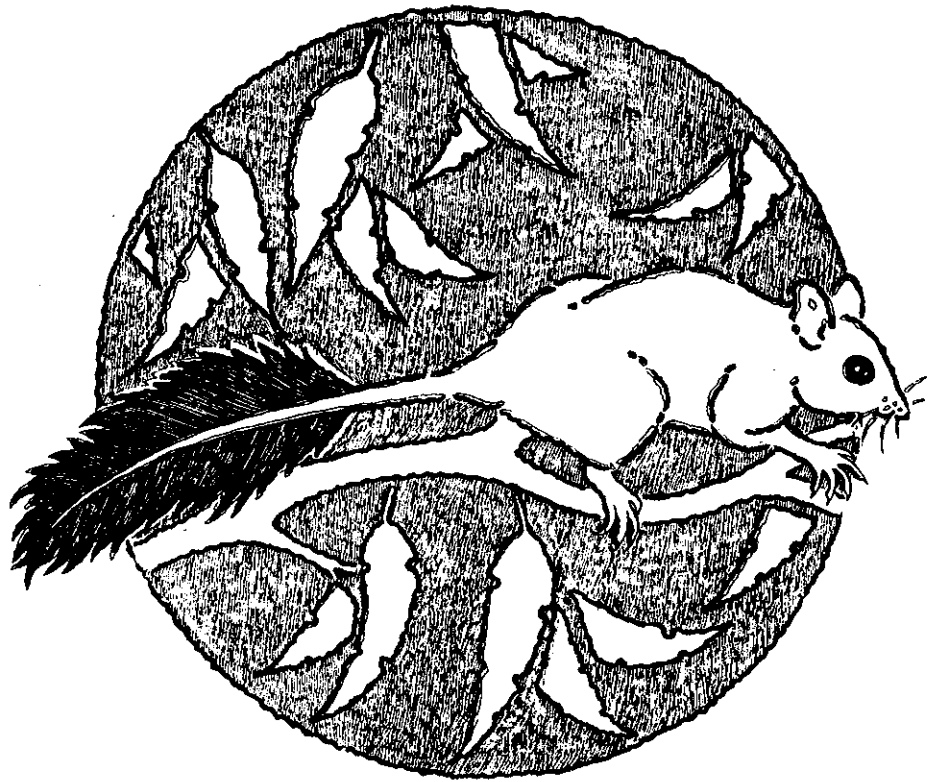
Since 1986, numbats have been translocated from the wild at Dryandra to three further sites. At a more arid site at Karroun Hill NR (300 000ha) rates of predation, due particularly to raptors and cats, are high. The re-introductions to Tutanning NR (2000ha) and the Batalling area (6000ha under fox control) are at an early stage, but have not suffered from the same rates of predation.

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**ABSTRACTS**