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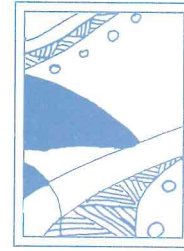
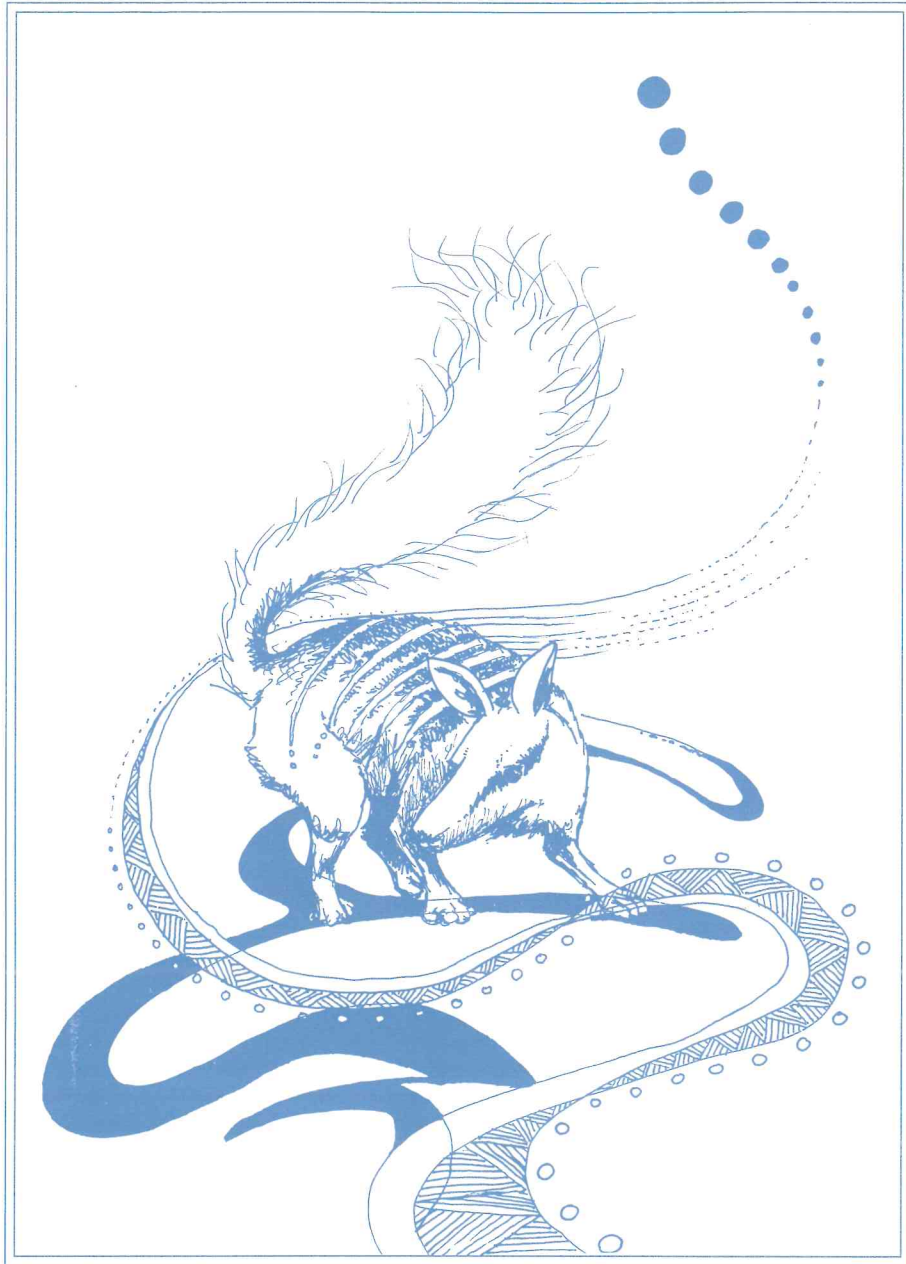
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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SHARING THE DREAMING

Nyoongar Aboriginal Stories of the Dreaming





WHY THE NUMBAT HAS STRIPES

During the Dreaming, when animals behaved like people, the racehorse goanna (karda) met a numbat in the forest. The numbat was plain and she wanted to look different.

The numbat said to the goanna, "I will paint some spots on you if you will paint some black and white stripes on me." The goanna agreed, so the numbat painted some spots on the goanna. He still has them today.

Then it was the turn of the goanna to paint some stripes on the numbat. The goanna worked away for some time painting the stripes.

When he had finished, the numbat looked over her shoulder to see what she looked like. She did not like the stripes and began to kick sand over them, but it did not completely cover the stripes.

That is why the numbat has sandy colours merging with its striped back.
