

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

TAMMAR WALLABY

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Macropus eugenii derbianus*

IDENTIFICATION: Dark, grizzled grey-brown above, becoming rufous on the sides of the body and the limbs, especially in males. Pale grey-buff below.

Head and body length 590–680 mm (males) 520–630 mm (females)

Tail length 380–450 mm (males) 330–440 mm (females)

Weight 2.9–6.1 kg (males) 2.3–4.3 kg (females)

HABITAT: Dense, low vegetation for daytime shelter and open grassy areas for feeding. Inhabits coastal scrub, heath, dry sclerophyll (leafy) forest and thickets in mallee and woodland.

DIET: The tammar wallaby is herbivorous and its diet consists mostly of grasses. Evidence suggests it requires drinking water for its survival. One study found up to 24 plant species in the diet, including *Gastrolobium bilobum*, *Danthonia setacea*, and *Corymbia calophylla*.

STATUS: Lower Risk

INTERESTING FACTS:

- The tammar wallaby was the first 'kangaroo' seen by Europeans (in 1629) by the crew of the Dutch ship *Batavia* stranded near the Wallabi Islands in the Houtman Abrolhos off Geraldton.
- Tammar wallabies were so named because they were once common in Tamma (*Allocasuarina campestris*) thickets.
- Lifespan is approximately 11 years for males and 14 years for females.
- In semi arid areas such as the Abrolhos Islands, tammar wallabies are able to drink sea water when fresh water is unavailable.

