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WESTERN BRUSH WALLABY

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Macropus irma*

IDENTIFICATION: Pale to mid grey with distinct white facial stripe, black and white ears, black hands and feet. Long tail with crest of black hair towards extremity.
Head and body length 1200 mm
Tail length 540–970 mm
Weight 7.0 – 9.0 kg
Moves fast with head low and tail extended.

HABITAT: The Western Brush Wallaby's optimum habitat is open forest or woodland, particularly favouring open, seasonally wet flats with low grasses and open scrubby thickets. It is also found in some areas of mallee and heathland, and is uncommon in karri forest.

DIET: Little is known of the Western Brush Wallaby's food preferences but it appears to be able to manage without free water. The Western Brush Wallaby is a grazer like the larger kangaroos, rather than a browser. One study has found that they consumed 29 species of plants including *Carpobrotus edulis*, *Cynodon dactylon* and *Nuytsia floribunda*, which represented the three most common dietary items.

STATUS: The Western Brush Wallaby was very common in the early days of settlement and periodically large numbers were traded commercially for skins. Their range has been seriously reduced and fragmented due to clearing for agriculture and there is a significant decline in abundance within most remaining habitat. The Western Brush Wallaby is now distributed across the south-west of Western Australia from north of Kalbarri to Cape Arid.

INTERESTING FACTS: The Western Brush Wallaby is a speedy animal, able to weave or side-step with ease as it moves low to the ground with its long tail extended, and so is clearly adapted to life on the open ground.

