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WESTERN GREY KANGAROO

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Macropus fuliginosus

IDENTIFICATION: These large, fairly muscular animals are greyish-brown to reddish-brown in colour. The males can grow to more than two metres from head to tail. The females are smaller. Their muzzles have finer hairs than most other kangaroo species.

HABITAT: The Western Grey Kangaroo prefer open grasslands, such as paddocks, near water and with nearby forest or woodland. They are great survivors and are still found even on the outskirts of the city, disappearing only as their habitat is converted to bitumen, buildings and gardens. In built-up areas, golf courses have become one of their last refuges where they can be seen on the fairways around dawn or dusk.

DIET: Western Grey Kangaroos are mainly grass eaters.

STATUS: Western Grey Kangaroos are widespread and abundant across southern Australia. In fact, they are now probably found in greater numbers than before European settlement because of the provision of pasture and additional water points. As a result, they are often culled under licence in some areas by farmers concerned about damage to fences and crops.

INTERESTING FACTS: These kangaroos, as with all the larger kangaroos, are crepuscular, feeding from late afternoon to early morning and resting during the day.

They breed throughout the year, although most young are born in summer. They usually produce one joey. Newborns resemble a jelly bean and take only a few minutes to climb to the pouch and attach themselves to a teat. They leave the pouch at around nine months but continue to suckle for a further nine months, often while another young is occupying the pouch. The mothers and their young use a series of clucking sounds to communicate.



**Blackwood District
Department of Conservation & Land Management**