Ghost Bat

**Fast Facts**

**Scientific Name:** *Macrodoma gigas*

**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable

- Extinct
- Threatened
- Least Concern
- Vulnerable
- Near Threatened
- Lowest Concern

**Body Length:** 10–13 cm

**Weight:** 75–145 g

**Gestation:** 2.5-3 months

**Number of young:** 1

**Habitat:** Cave systems and mineshafts in arid and rainforest areas

**Distribution:** Northern Australia

**Description**

The Ghost Bat has a light grey, almost white, colouring and large long ears. The Ghost Bat's wing span is up to 60 cm wide.

**Diet**

It is Australia’s only carnivorous bat and eats large insects, reptiles, frogs, birds, small mammals and, sometimes, other bat species. Much of this prey is captured on the ground.

**In the wild**

Mothers form nursery colonies separate from males until the young are able to hunt. Juveniles then hunt with their mothers until they become completely independent.

**Threats**

Populations are under threat due to destruction of roosting sites and changes in their surrounding habitat. Cave tourism can disturb roosting bats, while barbed-wire fences can pose a hazard to low-flying bats. Ghost Bats require multiple roosting sites, making them especially sensitive to environmental changes.

**At Perth Zoo**

Perth Zoo received its first Ghost Bat colony in 1977. Their descendants are located in the Nocturnal House in several exhibits including one which is a replica of an Australian mine shaft.

Perth Zoo's Ghost Bat exhibit is proudly supported by:

**BHP**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Ghost Bats use echolocation to find their food. Echolocation is a sensory system where the bats emit a high-pitched sound and listen to the echo to determine how far and in what direction objects are.