



Long-nosed Potoroo

Fast Facts



Other Names: Rat Kangaroo

Scientific Name: *Potorous tridactylus*

Conservation Status: Vulnerable

Extinct

Threatened

Least Concern

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Body Length: 26–41 cm

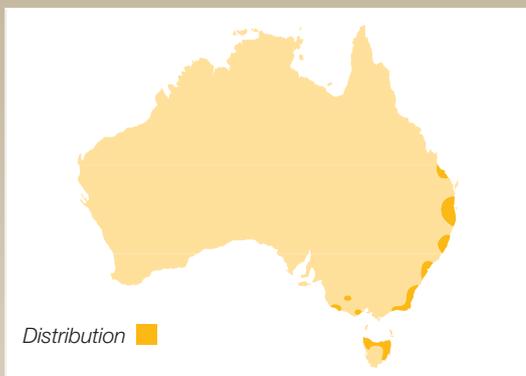
Weight: 660–1640 g

Gestation: 38 days

Number of young: 1

Habitat: Wet and dense sclerophyll forest, coastal heath woodland.

Distribution: Tasmania and in patches from coastal south-west Victoria to south-east Queensland.



Description

The Long-nosed Potoroo is about the size of a small rabbit. It has brown-grey fur and a pale grey belly fringed with brown-red. It has small, rounded ears and a sparsely-furred tail 18–24 cm long. It hops like a kangaroo when startled.

Diet

The Long-nosed Potoroo is an omnivore that mainly feeds on fungi. It also eats tubers, arthropods such as centipedes, seeds, fruit and green vegetation.

In the wild

This marsupial breeds and forages under dense plant cover to avoid predators. It forms nests out of vegetation and creates paths through the undergrowth.

This nocturnal feeder is closely related to Australia's most endangered mammal, Gilbert's Potoroo. Long-nosed Potoroos are being studied to gain a better understanding of the reproductive biology of Gilbert's Potoroo, which is found only in Two People's Bay Nature Reserve, near Albany in Western Australia.

Threats

The Long-nosed Potoroo was considered a pest by early crop farmers. Foxes, feral cats, land-clearing and natural disasters, including bush fires, are threats to the Long-nosed Potoroo.

At Perth Zoo

The Long-nosed Potoroos can be found in the Nocturnal House.

Join the Perth Zoo-coordinated Night Stalk from 1 September to 16 October and spotlight for native animals in your local bushland. Night Stalk is a great way to become involved in community conservation action and to learn about our native animals, their habitat and their threats. Night Stalk is sponsored by Tronox.

DID YOU KNOW?

Potoroo nose lengths increase the further south the animal is found.