

WATERFALL SPRINGS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



BRUSH-TAILED ROCK-WALLABY PROFILE

- The Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (BTRW) is one of 16 species of Rock-wallabies in Australia.
- The BTRW is a small reddish brown rock-wallaby weighing 5 to 8 kg with a characteristic long bushy tail and white cheek blazes.
- This shy and beautiful animal was once abundant and lived throughout the East Coast ranges of Australia.
- Living in steep rocky habitat rock-wallabies browse in the evening and early mornings, returning to their rocky shelters by day. They typically shelter in rock crevices, caves and overhangs and bask in exposed sunny spots.
- Within their home range they habitually use the same refuges, sunning spots, feeding areas and pathways and defend these vigorously.
- They feed predominantly on a wide variety of grasses, herbs and shrubs.
- Females give birth to a single pouch young at a time, after a gestation period of approximately 30 days. The young remain in the pouch for 6 months.
- BTRW life expectancy in the wild is 5-10 years on average.
- Between 1890–1900, Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies were considered agricultural pests and good hunting sport. Hundreds of thousands were shot and their pelts exported. This intensive harvest occurred at a time when the impact of other threats (e.g. feral goats and foxes) were well established and escalating, decimating entire colonies.
- BTRW species are now distributed as small, isolated populations dotted across their former range.
- The primary threats to Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies are predation by introduced species such as foxes, competition for food and shelter by feral goats and rabbits, wildfire, bioclimatic factors causing habitat changes, intervening human development, disease and inbreeding.
- Through genetic research it has been determined there are 3 distinct forms of Australian native Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies:
 1. BTRW 'central form' (south eastern NSW). Endangered of extinction in NSW and extinct in the ACT.
 2. BTRW 'southern form' (south eastern VIC). Critically endangered of extinction.
 3. BTRW 'northern form' (north eastern NSW and south eastern QLD). Vulnerable to extinction.

For further information contact Karen O'Mara, on 0415 326 762.

BTRW Profile