



Animal Species

Mammals

The following section features native mammals commonly found in the coastal environment of the western Eyre Peninsula. Information is provided on the conservation status, trend, appearance, habitat preferences, diet, breeding season and litter size. Additional notes of interest are also provided.

Mammal species are presented in the order outlined in *Census of South Australian Vertebrates* (2009). The orders included are as follows: Monotremata, Diprotodontia, Chiroptera and Carnivora.

Short-beaked Echidna

Tachyglossus aculeatus

ORDER: MONOTREMATA

FAMILY: TACHYGLOSSIDAE (Echidnas)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 30-53 cm.

Colours / Markings: Light brown to dark brown body with numerous spines (50 mm in length). Face, legs and underbody smooth, with short snout (7-8 cm). Flattened claws on front feet and back feet point backwards. Short stubby tail.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Forests, woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, rocky outcrops and agricultural lands, usually amongst rocks, hollow logs or under piles of debris.

DIET: Termites and ants preferred, but will also eat earthworms, beetles and moth larvae.

BREEDING SEASON: End June to early September.

LITTER SIZE: Single egg, laid in pouch.

NOTES: The Short-beaked Echidna is a good swimmer and has been observed paddling in shallow pools of water and in the intertidal zone.



Western Grey Kangaroo

Macropus fuliginosus

ORDER: DIPROTODONTIA

FAMILY: MACROPODIDAE (Kangaroos, Wallabies, Tree-kangaroos, Pademelons)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: Male 105-140 cm. Female 85-120 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body light grey-brown to chocolate-brown, usually darker above and lighter below. Finely-haired muzzle and large ears fringed with white hairs. Dark feet, forepaws and tip of tail. Hair shorter than the Euro (*Macropus robustus*). Red Kangaroos (*Macropus rufus*) are larger, have red or pale grey hair, and have a white stripe along the muzzle to below the eye.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

A diverse range of habitats including woodland, shrubland, grassland and agricultural pastures.

DIET: Mainly grasses and some herbs, leaves, tree bark and shrubs.

BREEDING SEASON: September to March.

LITTER SIZE: Generally one young per breeding cycle.

NOTES: Unlike some other kangaroo species, the Western Grey Kangaroo female does not exhibit embryonic diapause.



Chocolate Wattled Bat

Chalinolobus morio

ORDER: CHIROPTERA

FAMILY: VESPERTILIONIDAE (Evening bats)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

WEST COAST TREND: Data deficient

DESCRIPTION

Size: Body 9 cm (9 g). Wingspan 27 cm

Colours / Markings: Medium brown fur above, paler below. Short rounded ears. Wattles of skin hang from the lower lip and ears. Short muzzle with a ridge of fur.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Found in almost any habitat as long as sufficient insect prey is available. Roosts in any sheltered area including hollows, caves and man-made structures.

DIET: Insects, mainly small moths.

BREEDING SEASON: June - August. Pups born November - December.

LITTER SIZE: 1-2 pups.

NOTES: The Chocolate Wattled Bat is nocturnal. They often roost in colonies from a few dozen to several hundred animals. The main threat to conservation is the loss of hollow bearing trees by land clearing.



New Zealand Fur-seal

Arctocephalus forsteri

ORDER: CARNIVORA

FAMILY: OTARIIDAE (Eared Seals)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - Ma, SA - , EP - LC

WEST COAST TREND: Definitely increasing

DESCRIPTION

Size: Male 120-180 kg. Female 30-50 kg.

Colours / Markings: Body is dark brown with two layers of fur. Long pointed nose with black tip, long whiskers and external ears. The New Zealand Fur-seal is difficult to distinguish from the Australian Fur-seal; the former being slightly smaller and a much darker colour.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Prefers rocky sites including rocky coasts and offshore islands.

DIET: Cephalopods, fish, seabirds and sometimes penguins.

BREEDING SEASON: Summer.

LITTER SIZE: Generally one pup.

NOTES: The New Zealand Fur-seal breeds on rocky offshore islands often in sheltered areas with intertidal pools.



Australian Fur-seal

Arctocephalus pusillus

ORDER: CARNIVORA

FAMILY: OTARIIDAE (Eared Seals)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - Ma, SA - R, EP - R

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: Male 218-360 kg. Female 41-116 kg.

Colours / Markings: Males dark grey/brown with mane of coarse hair on neck and shoulders. Females have silvery-grey back and creamy-yellow throat and chest with brown belly. Both sexes have two layers of fur and external ears.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Rocky offshore islands.

DIET: Mainly fish and cephalopods but will also eat seabirds.

BREEDING SEASON: Summer.

LITTER SIZE: Generally one pup.

NOTES: The Australian Fur-seal breeds on rocky offshore islands where males establish territories to defend groups of females. No breeding colonies are known on the western Eyre Peninsula.



Australian Sea-lion

Neophoca cinerea

ORDER: CARNIVORA

FAMILY: OTARIIDAE (Eared Seals)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - V, Ma, SA - V, EP - V

WEST COAST TREND: Probably declining

DESCRIPTION

Size: Male 180-250 kg. Female 65-100 kg.

Colours / Markings: Male: Dark brown body with yellowish head and neck. Female: silvery-grey body. Blunt snout and small external ears. Pups chocolate brown in colour with a pale crown. Older male Australian Sea-lions are easy to identify due to their 'manes'. Females and juvenile males may resemble fur-seals but can be distinguished by their blunt snout.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Offshore islands and reefs, rocky coasts, sandy beaches, dune shrublands and swales are used as haul-out sites or breeding habitat.

DIET: Wide variety of prey, including cephalopods, fish, rock lobsters and sea birds.

BREEDING SEASON: Asynchronous 17-18 month breeding cycle.

LITTER SIZE: Generally one pup.

NOTES: Australian Sea-lion breeding colonies occur on offshore islands and remote sections of coastline.





Animal Species

Reptiles

The following section features native reptiles commonly found in the coastal environment of the western Eyre Peninsula. Information is provided on the conservation status, trend, appearance, habitat preferences, diet, breeding season and clutch/litter size. Additional notes of interest are also provided. The indicated size includes the tail.

Reptile species are presented in the order outlined in *Census of South Australian Vertebrates* (2009). All reptile species included belong to the Order Squamata.

Prickly Dragon

Ctenophorus chapmani

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: AGAMIDAE (Dragons)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 15 cm.

Colours / Markings: Pale grey above and whitish below. Body patterned in dark grey blotches with pale outlines. Head and nape with dark markings and lips barred.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Often seen in cliff top habitats, this dragon is also found further inland in shrublands and woodlands.

DIET: Invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: Oviparous, but clutch size unknown.



Peninsula Dragon

Ctenophorus fionni

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: AGAMIDAE (Dragons)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 20 cm.

Colours / Markings: Male: grey-brown body and head with orange-yellow spots and line extending from below the eye to shoulder. Limbs and tail pale grey-blue. Colouration is highly variable throughout the region. Female: paler and smaller than males.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Crevice in exposed rocky ranges and outcrops such as coastal cliff tops. Present on some offshore islands.

DIET: Invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: 2-6 eggs.

NOTES: The Peninsula Dragon incubates eggs over summer to hatch in January and February. The female often dies after laying the eggs.



Painted Dragon

Ctenophorus pictus

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: AGAMIDAE (Dragons)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 20 cm.

Colours / Markings: As indicated by the common name this species has vivid colouration, and this colouration is highly variable across the region. Breeding male with bright orange, yellow and blue markings on body and neck. Female and non-breeding male grey/brown with fragmented banded patterning above and white below.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Dry sandy habitats with low vegetation such as coastal dunes and some cliff top vegetation. Also found inland in sandy mallee habitats.

DIET: Invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: 2-6 eggs.

NOTES: Painted Dragon males are territorial and defend overlapping home ranges of females.



Eastern Bearded Dragon

Pogona barbata

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: AGAMIDAE (Dragons)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 50 cm.

Colours / Markings: Robust body, with highly variable colouring from grey, to yellow or brown. Broad triangular head with a beard-like pouch. Body covered in spines which are most prominent along the fringe of the 'beard' and edge of the body. Belly grey with darker circular markings. The inside of the mouth is yellow.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Wide variety of habitats including coastal dune shrubland, cliff tops and further inland in woodlands and shrublands.

DIET: Insects, small lizards and mammals, and flowers.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

LITTER SIZE: 8-35 eggs.

NOTES: The Eastern Bearded Dragon is semi-arboreal and is commonly seen prominently perched on stumps and fence posts.



Marbled Gecko

Christinus marmoratus

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE (Typical Geckos)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 7-14 cm.

Colours / Markings: Entire body, including limbs, tail and head in greys to browns with variable marbling pattern. Undersurface is pale grey. Large pads on toes and fingers.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Areas with large crevices including cliff tops, some coastal dune shrublands and offshore islands. Also found inland in woodlands and mallee.

DIET: Invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: 1-2 eggs laid into larger communal nest of up to 30 eggs.

NOTES: The Marbled Gecko is nocturnal and commonly shelters in rock crevices and beneath bark during the day.



South Coast Gecko

Diplodactylus calcicolus

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: DIPLODACTYLIDAE (Australasian Geckos)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - DD

WEST COAST TREND: Data deficient

DESCRIPTION

Size: 6.5 cm.

Colours / Markings: Long-tailed, body dark brown to black above with grey and beige strips in highly variable and indistinct broken and spotted pattern. Spots on flanks and white to whitish-grey below.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Typically on limestone or calcareous coastal sands of cliff tops and sand dunes, wherever surface rock is present.

DIET: Invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: September to January.

CLUTCH SIZE: Two eggs.

NOTES: The South Coast Gecko is a nocturnal ground-dweller, and may be found in leaf litter, fallen debris or under rocks during the day.



Barking Gecko

Nephrurus milii

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: CARPHODACTYLIDAE (Odd-tailed Geckos)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 8-13 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body colour variable from dark purplish-black to dark reddish-brown with fragmented bands of light whitish yellow spots across the body. Large head and eyes, body white below. Distinctive fat tail with white cross bands.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal shrublands and cliff tops and other areas where surface rock is present, including inland. Shelters under rocks and logs.

DIET: Invertebrates, particularly insects and spiders.

BREEDING SEASON: Unknown.

CLUTCH SIZE: Two eggs.

NOTES: The Barking Gecko is nocturnal and forages in open sandy and grassy areas. Emits a coughing bark when threatened.



Barred Snake-lizard

Delma australis

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: PYGOPODIDAE (Legless lizards)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 20 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body grey-brown above and pale below. The head and throat have dark variegations. Tail is long, about twice the length of body. Snout short and rounded. Forelimbs absent, hind limbs reduced to scaly flaps.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Mallee woodland and sandy arid habitats, often under rocks and logs or amongst clumps of spinifex (*Triodia* spp.).

DIET: Mostly arthropods but also occasional fruit and nectar.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: Two eggs.

NOTES: Quite snake-like in appearance, the Barred Snake-lizard can be distinguished by its small limb flaps, long tail and thick, fleshy (rather than forked) tongue.



Common Scaly-foot

Pygopus lepidopodus

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: PYGOPODIDAE (Legless Lizards)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 50 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body reddish-brown to greyish-brown with darker spots or fragmented lines, and pale grey below. Colouration highly variable. Long tail, almost twice size of body. Large hind limb flaps and forelimbs absent.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

A wide range of coastal and offshore habitats, especially where dense low vegetation is present. It shelters beneath rocks, fallen timber or dense grass clumps.

DIET: Mostly spiders and some frogs, small lizards and fruits.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: Two eggs.

NOTES: When threatened the Common Scaly-foot raises its head and forebody, and flicks its tongue.



Striped Wall Skink

Cryptoblepharus pulcher

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - LC

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 9 cm.

Colours / Markings: Slender and smooth body, black with reddish-brown vertebral stripe and silvery white stripes across, pale below. Medium-length tail, copper coloured head, and eye covered with fixed transparent disc.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal and offshore island habitat including woodlands and mallee. Also inhabits buildings and other human-built structures where it can often be seen climbing walls.

DIET: Invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: Two eggs.

NOTES: The Striped Wall Skink is mostly arboreal and is commonly found in crevices or under the bark of trees.



Bight Coast Ctenotus

Ctenotus euclae

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 12 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body pale silvery-grey above with narrow, black pale-edged vertebral stripe from nape to tail, and pale below. May have faint barring and dark and light flecks along body. Comb-like projections at ear opening.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Prefers sandy areas, especially coastal sand dunes but also found inland in sandy mallee habitat.

DIET: Invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: An egg-layer, but clutch size is unknown.

NOTES: Shelters by burying itself into soft sand.



Spinifex Slender Blue-tongue

Cyclodomorphus melanops

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 25 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body pale to dark olive-brown with dark flecks, and pale cream to yellow below. Scales smooth and with darker outline. Short limbs, male slightly smaller than female.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

In coastal areas, primarily found along cliff top vegetation where Spinifex (*Triodia* spp.) and low shrubs are present. Also found inland in Spinifex grasslands, arid shrublands and heath with some Spinifex cover and sandy soil. Present on some offshore islands.

DIET: Mainly arthropods.

BREEDING SEASON: September to January.

LITTER SIZE: 1-3 live born young.

NOTES: The Spinifex Slender Blue-tongue is mainly solitary, and is mostly active at night.



Western Tree Skink

Egernia richardi

ORDER: SQUAMATA
FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - R
WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 20 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body dark grey-brown or olive brown with longitudinal blackish dashes and scattered pale scales. Pale below, sometimes flushed orange-yellow on chest and abdomen.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Crevices in standing and fallen tree trunks, and rock crevices in stony outcrops. Present on some offshore islands.

DIET: Mainly arthropods.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

LITTER SIZE: Live born young, but litter size unknown.

NOTES: An arboreal (tree-dwelling) species that also occurs in rocky areas. Often seen basking near a crevice or tree hollow/crack on warm sunny days.



Four-toed Earless Skink

Hemiergis peronii

ORDER: SQUAMATA
FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - LC, EP - LC
WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 10-20 cm.

Colours / Markings: Long bodied and smooth-scaled, with brown to olive colouring above and yellow below with dark flecks. Limbs very short and widely spaced. Hind limbs with four toes.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Sandy habitats including sand dunes and some cliff tops and offshore islands. Also found inland in woodland and heathland on sandy soils.

DIET: Mainly arthropods.

BREEDING SEASON: Autumn and winter.

LITTER SIZE: 1-5 live born young.

NOTES: Very common in sandy habitats, especially under fallen timber and rocks.



Bight Slider

Lerista arenicola

ORDER: SQUAMATA
FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - R, EP - R
WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 13 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body pale olive grey with black flecks and two blackish stripes along flanks, between which is pale. Pinkish white below.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal dune shrublands and heaths.

DIET: Insectivorous.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: An egg-layer, but clutch size is unknown.

NOTES: Very few records of this species along the coast, which probably reflects a lack of survey effort. The Bight Slider may be more widespread than the map indicates.



Southern Four-toed Slider

Lerista dorsalis

ORDER: SQUAMATA
FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - LC
WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 13 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body shiny olive-brown above with prominent dark brown stripe from snout through eye and ear to tail. Body pale below. Dark flecks along back. Tail has a pink tinge. Very short limbs, each with four toes.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Common in coastal dunes and other sandy habitats, including chenopod shrublands and semi-arid woodlands. Present on some offshore islands.

DIET: Insectivorous.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: Egg-layer, but clutch size unknown.



Mallee Snake-eye

Morethia obscura

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - NT

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 10 cm.

Colours / Markings: Robust body. Light brown with an irregular pattern including white spots with black surrounds to form ocelli (eye-like shapes) on the back. Body pale below.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal dune shrublands and heath, and offshore islands. Also found inland in open woodland and shrublands.

DIET: Insectivorous.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: 3-5 eggs.

NOTES: The male Mallee Snake-eye develops bright orange-pink throat colouration during the breeding season. The name 'snake-eye' is derived from its lack of eyelids. The eye is instead protected by a transparent scale.



Great Bight Cool-skink

Pseudemoia baudini

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - SA - R, EP - R

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 11 cm.

Colours / Markings: Body light brown above and pale below.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal dunes and shrublands. Almost always confined to within one kilometre of the high tide mark along the coast. Often found amongst leaf litter, tussock grass, and dense coastal shrubs as well as under dead seaweed above the tide line.

DIET: Insectivorous.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

LITTER SIZE: Live young, but clutch size unknown.

NOTES: The Great Bight Cool-skink is strongly associated with near-coastal habitats, and as such may be threatened by coastal development.



Sleepy Lizard

Tiliqua rugosa

ORDER: SQUAMATA
FAMILY: SCINCIDAE (Skinks)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - LC
WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 35 cm.

Colours / Markings: Robust body with a short stumpy tail and large triangular head. Large pinecone-like scales. Dark above with pale yellowish spots irregularly distributed on the back and flanks. Pale below. Blue-black tongue.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

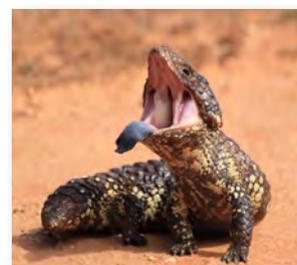
Dry woodland, grassland and shrubland, often in dry sandy areas. Present on some offshore islands.

DIET: Vegetation and invertebrates.

BREEDING SEASON: Late October to early November.

LITTER SIZE: 1-4 live young.

NOTES: The Sleepy Lizard may live up to 50 years and forms strong monogamous pair bonds.



Common Death Adder

Acanthophis antarcticus

ORDER: SQUAMATA
FAMILY: ELAPIDAE (Venomous snakes with fixed fangs)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - , SA - , EP - R
WEST COAST TREND: Possibly declining

DESCRIPTION

Size: 40 cm, but may get to 80 cm.

Colours / Markings: Thick body with grey to brownish-red cross-bands. White below with brown or black flecks. Thin tail with broad triangular head.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Forests, woodlands, grasslands and heath, with abundant leaf litter. Present on some offshore islands.

DIET: Lizards, frogs, small mammals and birds.

BREEDING SEASON: Spring to Summer.

LITTER SIZE: 20-30 live young.

NOTES: The Common Death Adder lures in prey by gently twitching the end of its tail when held upright. Venomous.



Eastern Tiger Snake

Notechis scutatus

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: ELAPIDAE (Venomous snakes with fixed fangs)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - LC, SA - LC, EP - R

WEST COAST TREND: Stable

DESCRIPTION

Size: 100-180 cm.

Colours / Markings: Black robust body with little to no patterning, blunt head.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

A variety of coastal and offshore island habitats including creeks, dams, drains, lagoons, wetlands and swamps, as well as open heath, tussock grassland and woodland.

DIET: Small mammals, nestling birds, fish and frogs. Some island forms feed exclusively on seabirds.

BREEDING SEASON: Summer.

LITTER SIZE: Around 20 live young, but clutches of over 100 have been recorded.

NOTES: The Eastern Tiger Snake is mostly diurnal, hunting prey during the day, however it may also forage on warm evenings. Venomous.



Heath Goanna

Varanus rosenbergi

ORDER: SQUAMATA

FAMILY: VARANIDAE (Monitors, Goannas)

CONSERVATION STATUS: AUS - LC, SA - V, EP - VU

WEST COAST TREND: Probably declining

DESCRIPTION

Size: 90-150 cm.

Colours / Markings: Dark stripe extends from eye to back of head. Legs dark grey with spots but not striped. Back and flanks dark grey with yellow or white spots arranged to give the appearance of banding. Tail is either dark or alternately striped to the tip which distinguishes it from the Sand Goanna, which is yellow for the last half.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Coastal and subcoastal dunes, mallee, woodlands and shrublands on sandy soils.

DIET: Predator and scavenger. Small mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, eggs and carrion.

BREEDING SEASON: Summer.

CLUTCH SIZE: 12-13 eggs.

NOTES: Eggs are laid into a hole dug into a termite mound, which the termites reseal, for stable incubation and protection. Shelters in a self dug burrow, hollow log or rock crevice.



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