

Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)

The greater bilby is a widely known and loved Australian icon of high spiritual importance to Traditional Owners across its current and former range. It has suffered an ongoing decline in range and abundance since the arrival of Europeans. Introduced predators, inappropriate fire regimes, and the impact of grazing and land-clearance are key threats to the continued survival of the bilby in the wild. These threats interact with each other in complex ways and with different regional emphases, affecting not only bilbies but many other declining species across Australia's deserts.

The species currently persists in the wild as two isolated and internally fragmented sub-populations. Additional bilbies are maintained in fenced and protected areas, and in intensively managed captive facilities. At national level the species is listed as vulnerable and in Queensland, where as few as 300 individuals remain, it is considered endangered. The IUCN lists the species as Vulnerable (C1) with a declining population trend. Find out more on the [IUCN Red List](#).



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Key Actions

Thirty-nine individuals from twenty-nine organisations met for the Greater Bilby Recovery Summit in March 2015 to forge consensus on a plan for the future of the greater bilby. Over four days, participants worked on a vision for the future of the species in the Australian landscape, agreed the challenges to achieving this, proposed a way forward for overcoming them, and agreed priority activities for the coming months. **Click on the text in the table below to learn more details about each action.**

Define and implement effective predator management.
Achieve unified national coordination.
Enlarge and reconnect small sub-population fragments (especially in the Queensland sub-population).
Agree and implement a standardized approach to monitoring and surveying.
Manage risk through a meta-population management plan incorporating wild, fenced and captive populations.
Share, collate and report information effectively.
Implement appropriate fire regimes.
Mitigate grazing and land-use issues.
Engage communities effectively.
Harmonise and strengthen legislation issues.
Implement a program of priority research.
Improve the quality of release animals.

Full workshop report available at: <http://www.cbsg.org/content/greater-bilby-summit-report-and-conservation-plan-2015>

Organisers: The Greater Bilby Summit was an initiative of The Save the Bilby Fund, in partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, the Taronga Conservation Society Australia, Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation and the Australian Government Department of the Environment. The workshop was designed and facilitated by the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.

Collaborators: Paul Andrew, Gregory Andrews, Kevin Bradley, Cheryl Buchanan, Jodi Buchecker, Peter Copley, Catherine Crowden, Stuart Dawson, Craig Doudle, Martin Dziminski, Aaron Fenner, Mike Fleming, Claire Ford, Dennis Gannaway, Matt Gentle, Camille Goldstone-Henry, Jean-Marc Hero, Liana Joseph, Leah Kemp, Tania Laity, Caroline Lees, Malcolm Lindsay, Greg Lollback, Geoff Lundie-Jenkins, Frank Manthey, Marty McLaughlin, Peter McRae, Chris Martin, Steven Miles, Katherine Moseby, Al Mucci, Peggy Mucci, Robert Murphy, Simon Nally, Vere Nicolson, Rory O'Connor, Manda Page, Rachel Paltridge, Mandy Paterson, Jessica Pink, David Roshier, Wolf Sievers, Rick Southgate, Lisa Anna Steindler, Erna Walraven.

Workshop sponsors: The Save the Bilby Fund, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, the Taronga Conservation Society Australia, Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation and the Australian Government Department of the Environment.