



Support wildlife translocations across Australia

Thank you for supporting Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) wildlife translocation program. AWC is a leader in threatened mammal translocations, undertaking the most extensive program in Australia. Underpinned by a robust and science-informed approach, AWC's translocations improve species' conservation prospects by establishing self-sustaining, genetically diverse populations within their former range. Reintroductions into large, feral-free safe havens give threatened populations the opportunity to thrive without the threat of feral predation. This translocation program also extends to areas surrounding fenced safe havens, working towards restoring species at a landscape scale. The success of AWC's translocation program is essential in preserving and boosting populations of our most threatened species such as the Numbat and Woylie.

The return of Brushtail Possums to Central Australia

In 2024, your support enabled the reintroduction of the Brushtail Possum to Central Australia. The return of the Brushtail Possum to this region was not just a conservation milestone, but also a spiritual and cultural homecoming for a species deeply embedded in the traditional stories and practices of the Ngalia Warlpiri/Luritja and Anmatyerr peoples.

The Brushtail Possum, once common across inland Australia, had become locally extinct in the Red Centre due to feral predation, altered fire regimes and an increased frequency of hot, dry weather. The reintroduction of the Brushtail Possum to Newhaven is part of a larger effort by AWC to restore the historical assemblage of mammal species in the region. The Brushtail Possum's return is expected to enhance ecological process, contributing to the long-term health and resilience of the landscape.

It was a joy to see the Brushtail Possums connected back to their ancestral lands, welcomed by song and dance by the Ngalia Warlpiri/Luritja and Anmatyerr peoples. Thanks to your support, the return of the Brushtail Possum to Central Australia is a story of revival – of both a species and the cultural traditions that hold it dear.



Brushtail Possum translocation. AWC.



Woylie release. AWC/Brad Leue.

Woylie reintroductions beyond the fence

While fenced feral-free areas are essential for species persistence and recovery, successful releases outside these areas will be required to restore species at a landscape scale. From 2021, AWC has conducted a number of reintroductions of mammals outside the fenced safe haven at Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary. Beyond-the-fence reintroductions of Brushtail Possums (Koomal in the Noongar language) and Western Quoll (Chuditch in the Noongar language) have been successful to date, with high rates of survival and evidence of successful breeding.

The next target species for reintroduction beyond the fence is the Brush-tailed Bettong (Woylie in the Noongar language). The Woylie has been carefully selected for this project, chosen for its substantial population within the haven at Mt Gibson, as well as its presence outside the fenced area and successful establishment at other non-fenced locations.

Thanks to your support, AWC has proposed an initial release of Woylies outside the fence at Mt Gibson in 2025. AWC's science-informed approach ensures that the decision to proceed will be determined by the status of Woylies inside the fenced area and is dependent on triggers for release being met – including large enough population size, sufficient rainfall and sustained feral predator suppression.

Once triggers for release are met, and Woylies are reintroduced beyond the fence, we look forward to sharing the results with you. You are contributing to AWC's long-term objective of having population of species susceptible to feral predators living 'outside the fence'.

Thank you for supporting this project – your contribution to wildlife translocations across Australia is essential in ensuring the continued success of Australia's most extensive wildlife translocation program.

