



## 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, employing the most extensive program in Australia. A robust, science-based approach underpins reintroduction of threatened or regionally extinct mammals into large, feral-free safe havens. The exclusion of feral predators from these enclosures gives threatened populations the opportunity to thrive - breeding and boosting populations without the threat of predation. Managing ten feral predator-free sanctuaries makes AWC has the largest establishment of safe havens in the country. This success of AWC's complex and science-informed translocation program is essential in preserving and boosting populations of our most threatened species such as the Bridled Naitail Wallaby and Golden Bandicoot.

### *Translocations to support existing populations*

The reintroduction of locally-extinct species is a core component of AWC's translocation program. It is essential in restoring critical ecosystem function, and returning species to their former range. Equally important to the overall program are supplemental translocations - wherein a number of individuals are introduced to an already-existing, but declining population, in order to boost numbers and genetic diversity. AWC completes a number of these supplemental translocations each year.

Over April and May, a total of 26 Western Quolls (Chuditch) were translocated to Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 of which were fitted with a radio collar to allow for tracking. This cohort included a good number of female Chuditch, to promote population growth in the coming months. Initial monitoring results are positive, as the group adjust to their new home and get ready for the breeding season.

May also marked the translocation of a cohort of Bridled Naitail Wallabies from Taunton National Park to Scotia and Mallee Cliffs. These supplemental translocations are integral to increasing genetic diversity, and longevity of wallaby populations after they suffered decline during the 2019-20 drought. The Bridled Naitail Wallaby was believed to be extinct until 1973, so active efforts are crucial to support this species and bring its populations back to what they once were.



*Bridled Naitail Wallaby release/AWC.*



Golden Bandicoot joeys/AWC.

## Monitoring

The monitoring of reintroduced species is an integral part of a comprehensive translocation program, as it provides important insight into the success of these new populations. Keeping track of population growth and decline, as well as the number of juveniles in new and supplemented populations informs AWC's approach to future conservation activities, and indicates when intervention, or a new approach is required.

Positive monitoring results are always encouraging - and can bring a sense of excitement to the team. Recently, AWC celebrated the capture of gorgeous twin Golden Bandicoot Joeys. In August last year, 40 Golden Bandicoots were gifted to central Australia, reintroducing them to Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary, an area where they had been locally-extinct. Almost a year later, the team were hopeful to find the population thriving - welcoming a third generation of Bandicoots. Along with the twin pair, the team also found 11 new individuals, along with 42 new Burrowing Bettongs, and 25 new Bilbies.

Monitoring can be quite complex and time consuming, with ecologists working late nights and early mornings in some of the most remote places in Australia. However, the insight these surveys provide for the long-term conservation of species is essential to AWC's operations right across the country. Thanks to your support, monitoring at Newhaven will continue to inform conservation actions for the Golden Bandicoot, Bilby and Bettong, but for now it is positive to see these threatened species thriving and free from predatory threat. We look forward to the results of our next surveys, and sharing with you the impact of your support!

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.

