

# Threatened Species Assessment

## *Leporillus apicalis* Lesser Stick-nest Rat

### Description

#### *Leporillus apicalis*

The Lesser Stick-nest Rat was a moderately sized native rodent (body mass 60 g) that differed from its larger relative, the Greater Stick-nest Rat, by the narrow brush of white hairs near the tip of its tail. (DAWE 2021)

### Current conservation status

Listed as Threatened in Victoria under *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Listed as Extinct in Australia under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

### Proposed conservation status

Extinct (EX) in Victoria.

### Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if–

- (a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and
- (b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. In total, 1,013 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *L. apicalis* since 1928.

#### Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results

Number of known historical locations	1
Last known record	1928
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	1,013
Survey methods searched	Cage trap, Camera - Surveillance/Remote, Elliott trap, Spotlighting, Spotlighting on foot



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## Historical distribution

The last specimen of the Lesser Stick-nest Rat was captured near Mt Crombie, south-west of the present Amata settlement, South Australia in 1933. However, in the nineteenth century it occupied a broad area stretching from the Riverina in New South Wales, through most of inland South Australia and into the Gibson Desert, reaching the Western Australian coast in the Gascoyne region.

The Lesser Stick-nest Rat is presumed to have become extinct in the Northern Territory by the 1940s, following a broad-scale decline extending over at least the previous 30 years. (DAWE 2021)

## References

DAWE 2021. Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Species Profile and Threats Database. *Leporillus apicalis* — Lesser Stick-nest Rat, Tjooyalpi, White-tailed Stick-nest Rat. Retrieved from: [http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon\\_id=136](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=136)