

# Threatened Species Assessment

## *Onychogalea fraenata* Bridled Nailtail Wallaby

### Description

#### *Onychogalea fraenata*

The Bridled Nail-tail Wallaby is a highly solitary, medium-sized macropod; up to 1 m tall and weighing up to 8 kg (males). The species has distinctive markings of a white 'bridle' line running from the centre of the neck, along the shoulder to behind the forearm on each side of the body. A black stripe runs the length of the body, and white cheek stripes are present on both sides of the head. A horny 'nail' occurs at the tip of the tail, is between 3-6mm and is partly concealed by hair.

The species has a high level of sexual dimorphism and males may be up to twice as large as females. (DAWE 2021)

### Current conservation status

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

Listed as Endangered 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, 10,349 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *O. fraenata* since 1857.

#### Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results

Number of known historical locations	2
Last known record	1857
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	10,349



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## Survey methods searched

Cage trap, Camera - Surveillance/Remote, Dusk watch, Large hair tubes, Scat census, Spotlighting, Spotlighting by area, Spotlighting on foot

## Historical distribution

The Bridled Nail-tail Wallaby is confined to Taunton National Park (an area of 11,000 ha) near the town of Dingo with some sightings within 10 km of the park. At the time of European settlement, Bridled Nail-tail Wallabies were abundant in eastern Australia to the west of the Great Dividing Range. Reports indicate that in the mid-nineteenth century, the species ranged from the Murray River region of north-western Victoria (possibly into eastern South Australia), through central New South Wales, and north to Charters Towers in Queensland. The species' range declined dramatically around 1900, and there were no confirmed sightings reported during the period 1937-1973.

One reintroduced population is confined to a smaller section of Idalia National Park in Western Queensland, and another exists at Avocet Nature Refuge near Emerald, in Central Queensland. Another population has been reintroduced at Scotia Sanctuary (64 000 ha), 150 km south of Broken Hill. (DAWE 2021)

## References

DAWE 2021. Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Species Profile and Threats Database. *Onychogalea fraenata* — Bridled Nail-tail Wallaby, Bridled Nailtail Wallaby. Retrieved from: [http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon\\_id=239](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=239)