

# Do you have a bandicoot in your backyard?



Photograph by P Meek @DECCW

New sightings of the Australian Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*) have recently been recorded again in Dulwich Hill. The Inner West population of Long-nosed Bandicoots is listed as an endangered population under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Find out what you can do to help!



Long-nosed Bandicoot photographed in Dulwich Hill by a resident in 2011

Local residents can help protect these native animals by taking a few simple steps. This brochure contains information to help determine if you have a bandicoot in your backyard or local area and what you can do to help.

## What is a Long-nosed Bandicoot?

Long-nosed Bandicoots (*Perameles nasuta*) were once widespread in the Sydney region but many populations have become extinct. The fact that the Inner West population of Long-nosed Bandicoots survives in such a highly urbanised environment through using specialised adaptations such as living under people's homes makes this population truly unique.

## Habitat and ecology

The bandicoot diet consists primarily of insect larvae, cockroaches, ants, earthworms, leaves, stems and tubers and fungi. Bandicoots use dense vegetation such as small native shrubs as protection from predators and in urban areas have been known to shelter under buildings.

## Threats

The Inner West's Long-nosed Bandicoot population is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of urban development, predation by domestic cats, dogs and introduced foxes as well as deaths resulting from road accidents and disease (toxoplasmosis).

## How to spot a Long-nosed Bandicoot!

### Description

Ranging from 310 - 425 mm in length Long-nosed Bandicoot's tails are generally shorter than their body. They are typically dark greyish-brown above and creamy white below. The forefeet and upper surfaces of the hind feet are also creamy white. The muzzle is long and pointed and the ears are large and distinctly pointed.

Long-nosed Bandicoots are nocturnal which means that they are most active during the night. It's more likely that you will see evidence of the animal's activity in the form of conical diggings in your garden before you see a bandicoot.



Conical holes dug by Long-nosed Bandicoots

When foraging for food, Long-nosed Bandicoots dig small conical holes with their forefeet which are just large enough for their long pointy snout. These diggings can be indicators of the presence of bandicoots in an area, but they can be confused with diggings by rats, rabbits, pied currawongs as well as other animals. Their depth is anywhere between a few centimetres and 15cm and approximately the circumference of a fifty cent piece.

## What to do if you find evidence of a Long-nosed Bandicoot:

Contact National Parks and Wildlife Service  
 Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
 Call: 1300 361 967  
 Or contact your local Council

## How to help protect the bandicoot population

- Keep cats and dogs in doors from dusk to dawn; bandicoots are highly vulnerable to predation
- Establish a quiet area in the garden as a native fauna sanctuary, to provide shelter and food  
 Remove exotic noxious weeds and replace with local native plants in clusters, with a variety of local native grasses, shrubs and trees to provide protective habitat
- Drive carefully at night when in a known bandicoot area
- Avoid or minimise insecticide use; seek natural alternatives.



## The GreenWay

The GreenWay connects the Cooks River Cycleway from Earlwood to the Iron Cove Bay Run at Haberfield, following Hawthorne Canal and the Rozelle freight rail corridor, which is currently being converted to light rail.

The corridor provides a north-south 'link' for local residents and wildlife as well as providing an important refuge for native plants and animals including reptiles, birds, flying foxes, bats, possums, frogs and of course Long-nosed Bandicoots. The GreenWay also has walking and cycling paths, relaxing recreational areas and plays host to a variety of community and arts projects.

## A green link

The Greenway has a number of bushcare sites that are maintained by volunteers from groups including the Inner West Environment Group and the Cooks River Mudcrabs. These sites are the foundation of the preservation and promotion of biodiversity in the GreenWay.

## GreenWay & Light Rail

A new GreenWay 3m shared pathway from the Cooks River to Iron Cove is being implemented as part of the Inner West Light Rail Extension. The GreenWay will incorporate existing and new bushcare sites alongside the light rail and shared pathway. Construction is expected to commence in 2011 and be completed by 2012.

## Get involved

For more information about the GreenWay or to get involved in bushcare volunteering and other opportunities please visit [www.greenway.org.au](http://www.greenway.org.au) or phone 9716 1864.



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Local natives providing bandicoot habitat