

couriermail.com.au

Kangaroo species face extinction

- Font size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
- Email article: [Email](#)
- Print article: [Print](#)
- Submit comment: [Submit comment](#)

Article from: **SundayMail**

Daryl Passmore

August 30, 2008 11:00pm

THEY are among Australia's most distinctive animals, but wildlife experts warn that many of the smaller members of the kangaroo and wallaby family are in danger of extinction.

Six of the macropod species that existed before human settlement are already extinct and another 23 – nearly one-third of the total – are at risk, according to research conducted for **World Wildlife Fund Australia** to mark **National Threatened Species Day** next Sunday.

"Australia has the worst record of mammal extinction in the world," said Kat Miller, WWF's threatened species national manager.

"Incredibly, half the mammals that have become extinct globally in the last 200 years have been Australian species.

"We cannot afford to let more of our unique Australian animals disappear forever."

Two of the top five most-threatened macropods are in Queensland.

Leading the list is the **bridled nail-tailed wallaby**. Believed extinct until they were rediscovered near Dingo, 160km west of Rockhampton, the only known population is in the Taunton National Park. And at No.3 is **the northern bettong**. Once spread from Rockhampton to Cairns, it is now only known to be in three isolated locations: the Lamb Range in the Atherton Tableland, Paluma near Townsville and Mt Zero, northwest of Townsville.

"These beautiful creatures are now threatened with extinction, facing dangers such as habitat loss, introduced cat and fox predators, altered fire regimes and now climate change," Ms Miller said.

Overall, 20 per cent of Australia's animal and plant species are threatened.

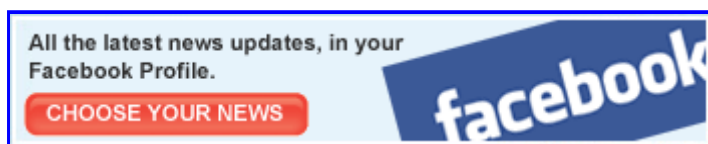
"Without urgent action, we risk losing more of the 346 animal and 1249 plant species that are listed as threatened under federal legislation," Ms Miller said.

WWF is urging people to get involved in nature conservation efforts by joining groups or assisting with activities such as tree-planting and revegetation schemes – as well as ensuring domestic animals do not escape and become feral.

Threatened Species Day is held on September 7 each year to mark the day in 1936 when the last Tasmanian tiger died in Hobart Zoo.

Share this article [What is this?](#)

- [Add to MySpace](#)
- [Digg it](#)
- [Post to del.icio.us](#)
- [Post to Newsvine](#)
- [Post to Facebook](#)
- [Add to kwoff](#)
- [Stumble Upon](#)



- Font size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
- Email article: [Email](#)
- Print article: [Print](#)

Ads By Google

- [Best Home Loans in WA](#)

Who offers best Home Loans in WA? Find out here ...

RateDetective.com.au/home-loans

© 2010 Queensland Newspapers. All times AEST (GMT +10).