

# YELLOW- FOOTED ROCK-WALLABY



*Petrogale xanthopus xanthopus*

## STATUS

- Vulnerable. The Yellow-footed rock-wallaby is a protected species

## ORIGIN

- The Yellow-footed rock-wallaby is found in western New South Wales, northwestern Victoria, the east of South Australia, including the Flinders Ranges and even small bits of Queensland. It does not usually live in places near humans, as it prefers a rocky environment.

## HABITAT

- Yellow-footed rock-wallabies live in areas with rocky outcrops, caves and ridges in semi-arid country.
- They may be seen early in the morning or late in the afternoon, basking on ledges in the sun.

## DESCRIPTION

- Males can reach up to 650 mm in size. The fur is fawn and grey on the top and the lower section is white. It is long, soft and silky.
- The yellow-footed rock-wallaby can be distinguished from other wallabies by its strikingly yellow tail.
- They have a dark brown dorsal (along the centre of the back) stripe.
- Their ears are long with yellow hairs covering the outside surface.
- They prefer to eat grass, but leaves from shrubs and bushes are also eaten.

## SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Little is known about the breeding habits of the Yellow-footed rock-wallaby.
- It has a gestation period of about 31 days and a pouch life of about 6 to 7 months.



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- The Yellow-footed rock-wallaby is also known as the Ring-tailed wallaby.
- When the young leave the pouch they do not get in and out like other kangaroos, but are left in a hiding spot while the mother forages at night.
- The Yellow-footed rock-wallaby has to compete for food with rabbits and goats.
- They have many predators which include the Wedge-tail eagle, Red fox, Dingo and even snakes.
- Humans are responsible for the serious decline in numbers over the last century. Many were killed for skins, which were exported overseas. Habitat destruction and the introduction of predator and competitor species from overseas have caused great reductions in numbers.
- Captive bred Yellow-footed rock-wallabies from Monarto Zoo were released into the wild in an area near Leigh Creek (Aroona Dam) in 1996. The local community has been involved with Zoos SA and Dept of Environment and Heritage in supporting this population with surveys and feral animal control.