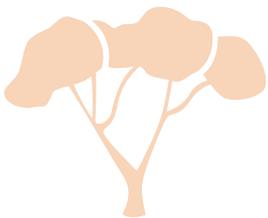




## STUDENT FACT SHEET

### FOCUS QUESTION

What can people managing land do to help Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby populations?



## YELLOW-FOOTED ROCK-WALLABY

### *Petrogale xanthopus xanthopus*

The Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby was historically widespread in rocky habitat across inland areas of South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. They are found in groups of up to several dozen individuals.

#### DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

The Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby is fawn-grey above with white fur below and is distinguished from other rock-wallabies by its distinctive tail that is usually orange-brown in colour with irregular dark brown stripes. There can be considerable variation in the pattern and colours on the tail, with the tail tip differing from dark brown to white. They also have characteristic white cheek-stripes and their ears, forearms, hindlegs and feet vary from rich orange to bright yellow. Adult animals grow to an average head and body length of 60cm (range 48-65cm) and weigh between 6 and 11 kilograms. The distinctive striped tail can be up to 70cm long.

#### DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Suitable habitat for the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby consists of rocky outcrops, cliffs and ridges in arid and semi-arid country. These rocky outcrops provide shelter that enable the wallabies to escape extreme climatic conditions and refuge from predators. The steep slopes and narrow gullies provide shade for much of the day and lead to a milder micro-climate compared to surrounding areas.

Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby



In South Australia, historical evidence suggests that the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby was more abundant and widely distributed than they are today, occurring in suitable habitat throughout the Flinders, Gawler and Olary Ranges and the Eyre Peninsula. Ground-based surveys in the early 1980's and 2000-2002 recorded approximately 200 colonies throughout the Flinders Ranges from Telowie Gorge in the south to Brindana Gorge in the north. These surveys showed that there have been a number of local colony extinctions. In other parts of South Australia their decline has been even more dramatic with less than five colonies currently known from the western Gawler Ranges and seven in the Olary Ranges.

#### POTENTIAL THREATS TO THE YELLOW-FOOTED ROCK WALLABY

The decline of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby can be attributed to a number of factors including historic hunting for the fur trade. Currently, the most significant threat is predation by foxes, particularly juveniles. Habitat modification and competition for food resources from grazing by goats, rabbits, sheep and kangaroos. Competition by goats for shelter sites is also considered a threat.

Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby habitat





# Further Information

## REFERENCE LIST

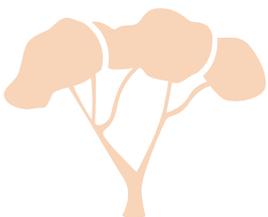
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