



Undertaking Australia's most ambitious rewilding program – Newhaven Wildlife Restoration Project

Prior to European settlement, central Australia teemed with wildlife. Today it is a vast marsupial ghost town at the epicenter of global mammal extinctions. Introduced feral predators (cats and foxes), have robbed Australia of its natural capital and are the most significant driver of mammal extinctions. **Cats kill around three million mammals, two million reptiles and one million birds every night.** Currently there is no effective solution for the landscape-scale control of feral cats. Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is spearheading strategies to reduce their impact and restore Australia's natural capital.

At AWC's Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary in central Australia we are implementing a project of global biodiversity significance. Here, AWC has created a 9,400 hectare feral predator-free area (Stage 1), which was declared the **largest predator-free area on mainland Australia** in May 2019. Within this area we are now undertaking a rewilding program involving the reintroduction of at least 10 nationally endangered mammals. Stage 2 will expand this area by a further 100,000 hectares – and represents the most ambitious rewilding program ever undertaken on mainland Australia.



Species	Global pop. est.	Stage 1 (9,400 ha)	% increase	Proposed Stage 2 (100,000 ha)	% increase
Western Quoll	13,500	90	1%	1,090	8%
Red-tailed Phascogale	9,000	625	7%	1,750	20%
Numbat	900	210	23%	2,460	400%
Golden Bandicoot	25,000	7,000	28%	57,000	228%
Bilby	10,000	700	7%	8,200	82%
Burrowing Bettong	15,000	2,500	17%	40,000	267%
Brush-tailed Bettong	15,000	1,200	8%	8,700	58%
Rufous Hare-wallaby (Mala)	4,000	2,400	60%	32,400	810%
Black-footed Rock-wallaby	9,000	750	8%	750	8%
Shark Bay Mouse	10,000	7,500	75%	82,500	825%
Central Rock-rat (Antina)	900	1,250	140%	1,250	140%

Goals and objectives

The primary goal of the Newhaven project is to **secure a significant increase in the global populations of at least 10 nationally endangered mammals.**

With construction of the Stage 1 fence completed and the area it protects declared feral predator-free, endangered native mammal translocations are now a high priority for AWC. No other project in Australia has delivered such a significant increase in the global populations of so many threatened native mammals. This project is expected to **double the global population of at least six of the reintroduced species.**

The table above shows estimated mammal populations resulting from this rewilding project at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary.

Proposed activities

Several translocation events will occur for each of the threatened mammal species to be reintroduced at Newhaven, ensuring maximum genetic diversity. While each translocation event will differ slightly depending on the animal to be reintroduced, the following activities are typical of nearly all translocations:

1. Conduct advance surveys of the source population to determine whether removing individuals is viable, and how many can be translocated without affecting the source population.

2. Return to source site to capture specified number of individuals.
3. Conduct health screens, veterinary reviews.
4. Transfer animals from source site to Newhaven (usually by charter flight, may include boat or helicopter if sourced from remote locations and/or islands).
5. Fit radio tracking collars and/or microchips to select animals.
6. Release individuals into fenced area (either temporarily into 150 ha 'soft release' area, or permanently into 9,400 Stage 1 area).
7. Monitor and measure survivorship, recruitment (breeding), condition and population size.

AWC invites you to play a strategic role in this globally significant rewilding project – the outcome of which will see central Australia's lost biodiversity restored on a massive scale and the future of an entire suite of nationally endangered mammals secured.

\$480,000 will support the translocation of up to six endangered mammal species (approximately \$80,000 per translocation event). Depending on the location and size of source populations, multiple translocation events may be required for some species in order to establish viable wild populations.

AWC is seeking a contribution towards this vital project.