

# THREATENED SPECIES - MAMMALS

There are 33 native terrestrial and 41 marine mammals which are known to occur in Tasmania, of these, 7 marine mammals and 3 terrestrial mammals are threatened under state and federal law.

The main threats to mammals are via disease (e.g. Facial tumour disease in Tasmanian Devils, aquatic fungus *Mucoramphiborum* in Platypus or toxoplasmosis from cats), road kill and predation from foxes and cats. The clearance of native vegetation and inappropriate use of fire are also contributing to the decline in the range and/or populations of native mammals in Tasmania.

## EXAMPLES OF THREATENED MAMMALS OF TASMANIA

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		State status (TSPA listing)	Commonwealth status (EPBCA listing)
<i>Thylacinus cynocephalus</i>	Thylacine	X	EX
<i>Perameles gunnii gunnii</i>	Eastern-barred Bandicoot		VU
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	R	VU
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse	E	VU
<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>	Tasmanian Devil	E	EN
<i>Vombatus ursinus ursinus</i>	Common Wombat		VU

TSPA: E=Endangered, V=Vulnerable. EPBCA: EN=Endangered, CR=Critically Endangered, VU=Vulnerable. See Threatened Species Management Fact sheet for further explanation.

## TASMANIAN DEVIL

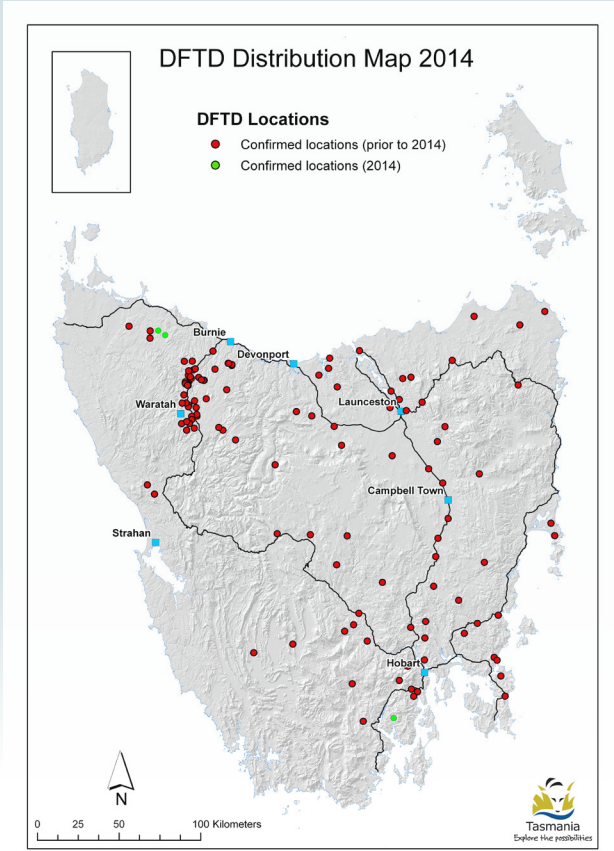
There is no doubt that persecution led to the extinction of the Thylacine in Tasmania and the process may have been accelerated by a distemper-type disease.

The second largest marsupial carnivore the Tasmanian Devil, whilst also suffering some persecution, exacerbated by road-kill, is now also under dire threat from the facial tumour disease. This species is listed as endangered under both the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Originating on the east coast of Tasmania, the disease is spreading across the State and in June 2012 was recorded at low levels as far west as Takone.

Where the disease has been prevalent for some years (particularly east coast area), the populations have been reduced by up to 95%. The lower number of devils and the resulting higher levels of carrion in the landscape allow other introduced carnivores (cats, dogs and potentially foxes) to flourish at the expense of native species.



Tasmanian Devil  
Photo:  
I. Williams



Spread of Facial Tumour Disease to 2014  
Source: *Save the Tasmanian Devil Program*



Devil infected with DFTD  
Source: *Save the Tasmanian Devil Program*

Predominantly a scavenger, the devil is also a capable hunter, with its main diet composed of living and dead wallabies, various small mammals and birds along with carcasses of farm animals. With extremely powerful jaws and teeth, the devil will devour entire carcasses including the bones, skin and fur. DPIPW have carried out quite a bit of diet analysis around the State recently and have found that Brushtail Possums are one of their favourite prey species.

Landholders can play their part in protecting the devil through slowing down on the roads at night, removing dead wildlife from roads where safe to do so and ensuring domestic fowl are in devil and quoll-proof chook pens. Devils will use fallen logs and occasionally wombat burrows as den sites, so it is recommended any potential sites be retained on your property.



Tasmanian devils  
Photo: P. Tonelli

Report sightings of diseased devils or road killed devils to the **Save the Tasmanian Devil Program**.



## SPOTTED-TAILED QUOLL

The second largest living marsupial carnivore, the Spotted-tailed Quoll is a threatened species and listed as rare in Tasmania and vulnerable under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.

Most common in the north and west of Tasmania, the Spotted-tailed Quoll prefers wet forests and scrub and is an active and agile hunter. It will prey on small or injured wallabies, rats, reptiles, birds (including chickens) and invertebrates.

This species is under threat from loss of habitat, persecution, roadkill and competition from other predators such as cats, dogs and foxes should they become fully established.



Spotted-tailed Quoll  
Photo: P. Tonelli.

## EASTERN BARRED BANDICOOT



Eastern barred Bandicoot  
Photo: B. Brown

Virtually extinct in the wild on mainland Australia, there is still a functioning population in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian population has suffered a downturn in numbers over recent years through threats such as loss of habitat, predation by cats, dogs (and potentially foxes) and the disease Toxoplasmosis (carried by cats).

Farmers value the bandicoot for their ability to reduce numbers of pasture pests such as corbies and grass grubs, and many are now planting undergrowth species to provide shelter, nest sites and habitat for the Eastern barred bandicoot.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### NRM SOUTH FACT SHEETS

Supplementary information can be found on other threatened species factsheets in this series on mammals and birds: [www.nrmsouth.org.au](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au)

### THREATENED SPECIES LINK

The Threatened Species Link is a new easy-to-use website providing management and conservation advice on Tasmania's threatened species. You can find out which species might be on your land, and how to plan around their management and conservation needs: [www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au](http://www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au)

Save the Tassie devil program. To report sightings send a message (and a photo if possible) to 0427 733 511 or for more information on the program visit: <http://www.tassiedevil.com.au/tasdevil.nsf>

For more information please refer to NRM South's Healthy Farming & Environment Reference Guide: <http://www.nrmsouth.org.au/>

