

Spotted-tailed Quoll: Endangered species

Scientific name: *Dasyurus maculatus*
Other Common names: *Tiger Quoll, Tiger Cat, Spot-tailed Quoll*

How do I recognise it?

The Spotted-tailed Quoll is the largest marsupial carnivore on mainland Australia. This species generally weighs up to 4kg, although an 8kg individual has been recorded. They have bright eyes and a pointed snout with moist pink nose. The fur on their head and back is red-brown to dark brown with white spots and their belly is creamy. They are distinguished from other quolls by a long spotted tail.

Where does it live?

Spotted-tailed Quolls occur in a variety of habitats including dry and wet sclerophyll forest, woodland, coastal heath, rainforest and rocky gorges, with occasional sightings in agricultural areas and on the fringes of urban areas. Quolls are predominantly nocturnal and den during the day in rocky outcrops, hollow logs or hollow limbs of trees. They are good climbers.

What does it eat?

Spotted-tailed Quolls are carnivorous, hunting and scavenging on the ground and in trees mainly for mammals and birds, but also for invertebrates, reptiles and eggs. Scats collected from the Glen Innes region contained Brush-tail possum, Northern Brown Bandicoot, Greater Glider, Swamp rats, Swamp Wallabies, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Feral Pig. Quolls have also been observed entering rabbit warrens to kill rabbits.

Why is it threatened?

Although Spotted-tailed quolls are found in Qld, NSW and Vic, their populations have declined since European settlement and they are now fragmented. They appear to be extinct in SA. The decline of the Spotted-tailed Quoll is not fully understood but factors that are likely to be involved include habitat clearance, human persecution, predation by introduced predators, fire that is too intense/widespread and road mortality. The spotted-tailed quoll is listed as Endangered under Federal legislation.

Why is our region important?

Most spotted-tailed populations throughout their range appear to be very low density. However, the region east of Glen Innes appears to be a quoll hotspot with some of the highest densities ever recorded.

What can I do?

- Control foxes, wild dogs and feral cats
- Desex domestic dogs and cats. Keep tied up or indoors at night.
- Retain and improve patches of forest
- Leave large fallen logs intact
- Burn in patchy mosaics. Avoid intense widespread fire.
- Connect isolated habitat patches by planting corridors of local native plant species
- Drive carefully in areas where quolls occur, slow down or stop if one is on the road.
- Report sightings of the Spotted-tailed Quoll to the Department of Environment and Climate Change

But wait there's more.....

By protecting the habitat for the Spotted-tailed Quoll, you will also be protecting habitat for a whole suite of other threatened and declining plants and animals dependent upon forest ecosystems. These species include the Powerful Owl, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Thick Tailed Gecko, Booroolong Frog, Feathertail Glider, and the waratah *Telopea aspera*.

References

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Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee



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