



Photo: Rosemary Goland

Bandicoot Superhighway Project

The Southern Brown Bandicoot

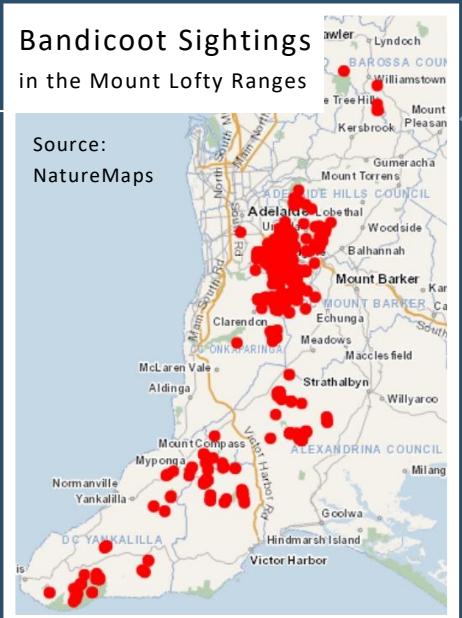
The Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus obesulus*) is a native ground dwelling marsupial. Sometimes confused with introduced rats, Bandicoots are larger, stouter and much cuter. Female Bandicoots carry their babies in a pouch. They have rounded ears, a long pointed nose and a short tail. They have a sleek brown/gold coat with flecks of black and a cream coloured underside.

Why are Bandicoots important?

These cute little critters are very beneficial for our native vegetation. Each Bandicoot can turn over up to four tonnes of soil a year searching for food, which improves the soil and distributes soil fungi to assist plant growth. The small pits that Bandicoots leave behind collect water and leaf litter, helping some native seeds to germinate. You can see why they are known as 'ecosystem engineers'!

Bandicoot Sightings in the Mount Lofty Ranges

Source:
NatureMaps



A range of suitable habitats for Bandicoots. Photos: Anthony Abley.



Bandicoot populations are being threatened by loss of suitable habitat, e.g. from human development and overgrazing by kangaroos, rabbits and deer.

Where do Bandicoots occur?

In the Mount Lofty Ranges area you may find Bandicoots **where there is dense undergrowth**. They need areas with very dense understorey vegetation to protect them from predators, like cats and foxes. They will sometimes use large patches of weedy blackberry where suitable native habitat has gone.

There are populations of Bandicoots that still occur in the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula, both in parks and on private properties. See the map above.

About The Bandicoot Superhighway Project:

The community-led Bandicoot Superhighway Project aims to save the Southern Brown Bandicoot from extinction, and has a long term vision to foster a 'highway' of interconnected habitat throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges.

The project partners are working to:

- Increase the Bandicoot's available habitat through community and corporate planting events
- Raise awareness, and involve the community in Bandicoot monitoring
- Use ecological burning to maintain and improve habitat quality (in collaboration with government partners)
- Undertake careful weed control to keep habitat healthy
- Fence remnant vegetation from grazing animals
- Trial establishing new sub-populations of Bandicoots to reduce their risk of extinction



Photo: Andrew Palmer

Why are our Bandicoots threatened?

Human development in the Mount Lofty Ranges has impacted Bandicoots and their habitat. There were once 8 species from the Bandicoot and Bilby family in the Mount Lofty Ranges, but now the Southern Brown Bandicoot is the only one left!

The main causes of Bandicoot decline are:

- Loss of suitable habitat
- Deterioration of habitat quality
- Disconnection of habitat by human development

Southern Brown Bandicoots are now listed as endangered under the national EPBC Act.

Bandicoot populations have become increasingly isolated from each other due to habitat loss and human developments such as roads, housing and agriculture. Small, isolated populations of Bandicoots are particularly at risk of extinction.

How can you be involved?

If you're an individual interested in Bandicoot conservation, a local landholder or someone involved in a community group who would like to participate **we want to hear from you!**

- Join community planting days
- Attend interactive workshops and learn how to identify Bandicoot diggings and find Bandicoots in your area
- Learn how to make your property more Bandicoot friendly
- Assist us by reporting your Bandicoot sightings
- Connect with the local community



A digging from a Bandicoot

Photo: Kirstin Abley

Sign-up

by filling out the
**Bandicoot Superhighway
Project Interest Form [here](https://bandicoots.paperform.co).**

Interest Form Link: <https://bandicoots.paperform.co>
by the Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group Inc.

Main project contacts: Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group: www.surlg.org.au, Nature Conservation Society of SA (NCSSA):
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The project partners:

The Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group, The Nature Conservation Society of SA, The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, Green Adelaide, National Parks and Wildlife SA, The University of Adelaide and Friends of Parks Groups.

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