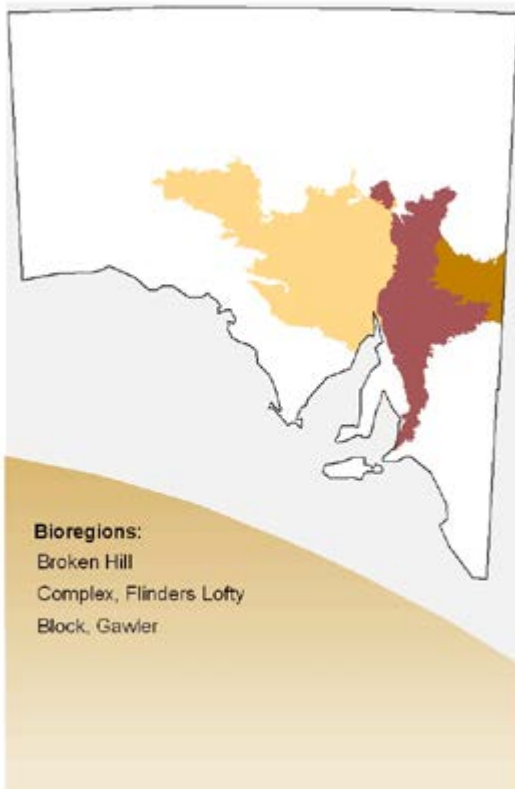


Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby

Petrogale xanthopus



Map courtesy of Mapping Unit, Customer and Commercial Services.

Map is not intended to indicate spatial distribution of the species, only the bioregions in which the species is found.

Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies are colourful marsupials with orange ears, white cheek stripes and distinctively striped brown/orange tails. They get their name from their bright yellow-orange feet, forearms and hind legs.

Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies are perfectly suited to the rocky highland areas in which they live. They have textured pads on their feet to stop them from slipping when hopping on rocks, powerful hind legs for jumping and long tails for balance. Aboriginal people of the Flinders Ranges used to hunt Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies; the meat was an important part of their diet, and they used the thick fur as blankets and cloaks. This animal is culturally significant to the Adnyamathanha people. The Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby is also the faunal emblem of the Adelaide Zoo and the Nature Conservation Society of SA.

Diet

Their diet consists mainly of grasses, herbs and bushes.

Breeding

Breeding can occur in any season, but severe droughts seem to stop them from reproducing successfully, probably because there is not enough food to support a new generation. Like all marsupials, females carry their young in a pouch until they are old enough to look after themselves.

Habitat

Once common in the Flinders, Olary and Gawler Ranges, these wallabies are now making a gradual comeback. They live in colonies (of up to 100) in rocky habitats, sheltering in cool caves in the heat of the summer days and feeding only nocturnally. In cooler months of the year they are most active in the mornings and evenings (crepuscular) and enjoy sitting in the sun on top of rock piles.

Threats

Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies were hunted for their coats in the 1800s which reduced their numbers. Threats now include competition for food with other herbivores, predation by feral animals, habitat loss and degradation, weed invasion and population fragmentation.



Big foot? Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies are, Macropods which means 'big feet'. All kangaroos, wallabies and their kin belong to this special group.

Conservation

Recovery programs such as the Bounceback project have been working with landholders and in National Parks in the Flinders Ranges, Gawler Ranges and Olary Hills to restore the habitat of these wallabies and reduce the threats to their survival. Their numbers have grown as a result!

You can help the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby by:

- visiting the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies at the Adelaide Zoo or Cleland and finding out more about them
- caring for National Parks that protect animals like the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies
- being a responsible pet owner – never take your pets into National Parks.

For further information

Public enquiries

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

Eastwood: (08) 8273 9100

Gawler: (08) 8523 7700

Lobethal: (08) 8389 5900

Willunga: (08) 8550 3400

Education enquiries

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

Northern Adelaide: (08) 8406 8289

Barossa: (08) 8563 8436

Central Adelaide: (08) 8234 7255

Southern Adelaide: (08) 8384 0176

Southern Fleurieu: (08) 8551 0524

