



## SIGNIFICANT FAUNA IN LOGAN

# WALLABIES (*Macropodidae*)

Natural bushland in Logan City provides important habitat for a number of species of wallabies. Wallabies are marsupials that belong to a small group of animals called macropods which also includes the Kangaroo. They are only found naturally in Australia and Papua New Guinea, however feral populations have survived in New Zealand, Great Britain and Hawaii. The word macropod actually means 'big foot'.

Macropods of all sizes have one thing in common - powerful back legs with long feet. They are distinguished from other animals by the way they hop on these strong back legs. Hopping uses slightly less energy than four-footed running, but this advantage is lost at low speed. One of the odd things about macropods is that, on land, they can only move their hind feet together but when swimming they can kick each leg independently.

Two common wallaby species found in Logan City are:

- **Red-necked wallaby** - *Macropus rufogriseus*
- **Swamp wallaby** - *Wallabia bicolor*

### What is my habitat?

The red-necked wallaby inhabits scrubland to open forest with heath land to hide in amongst.

The Swamp Wallaby inhabits areas with dense grass or ferns and are also found in wet sclerophyll forests or open eucalyptus forests.

In Logan, wallabies can be found in the natural remnant forest areas of Kimberley Forest Park, Neville Lawrie Reserve, Springwood Conservation Park, Cornubia Forest Park, Daisy Hill State Forest and Venman National Park.

### What do we look like?

Red-necked wallaby - *Macropus rufogriseus*



The Red-necked Wallaby can be distinguished from other wallabies by its white cheek markings and red colouring on the neck. The rest of its body fur is grey to reddish in colour with a white or pale grey abdomen. Their muzzle paws and toes are black in colour.

Red-necked Wallabies act solitary throughout resting periods but graze communally. They are most active from dusk till dawn.



For Further Information: [www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au), 3412 3412 or [council@logan.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@logan.qld.gov.au)





## Swamp wallaby – *Wallabia bicolor*

The Swamp Wallaby are the darkest of all wallabies in South-east Queensland. It has dark brown fur with a charcoal-black face, often with lighter rusty patches on the belly, chest and base of the ears. It feeds on a variety of plants including introduced and native shrubs, grasses and ferns. Their rich chocolate colour is perfect camouflage in the shady thickets where they live. They are actually a species that has been considerably advantaged by the spread of exotic weeds such as lantana. This is because they are amongst the shyest of all wallabies and depend on the thick understorey afforded by such weeds.



They are nocturnal, after sunset they emerge from the shrubbery to browse and graze on grass and small shrubs. Although they are mostly solitary they aggregate at feeding grounds during the night.



### Why are they threatened?

The main threat to the wallaby populations in Logan City is habitat destruction and fragmentation through the clearing of vegetation, particularly large remnant areas. Flow on affects from this is a changed fire pattern, the introduction of new predators and finally the increase in road fatalities.

### Further Information

For more information on Logan City's wildlife or Council's community programs please visit the Council's website [www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au) or contact the Customer Services Unit by phone (07) 3412 3412 or by email [council@logan.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@logan.qld.gov.au).

### What is Council doing to protect them?

These Wallaby species are an important part of Logan City's natural heritage. Council contributes to its protection through:

- increasing public knowledge of native plants and animals;
- encouraging nature conservation on private land;
- supporting environmental projects;
- protecting significant vegetation and habitat through local laws and planning requirements;
- promoting sustainable development;
- protecting and managing natural areas and important wildlife corridors in parks and reserves; and
- participation in regional conservation programs; including the Wildlife Movement Solutions Working Group.

### What can you do to protect them?

You can help conserve these wallaby species through a number of actions, these include:

- The preservation of their habitats in your own backyard or consider changing to wallaby friendly fencing;
- Join a Bushcare group to help restore bushland around Logan City;
- Between dawn and dusk be careful when driving as this is the time they are most active; and
- Keep your pets safely restrained when wildlife is close to your house or known to be in the area.

You can be assisted by a number of Council's community programs:

- Bushcare;
- Conservation Incentives Program; and
- Envirogrants Program.

Photos are courtesy of the Queensland Museum (QM) and Sally Jenyns (SJ)

