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Operated by Chevron Australia in joint venture with



Gorgon Project

About the Authors

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Isobel MacAulay

Isobel MacAulay works for Chevron Australia as an Environmental Horizons Graduate for the Australasia Strategic Business Unit. Her Bachelor of Science (Hons) studies at the University of Sydney (New South Wales) investigated the ecotoxicological consequences of the emerging field of nanotechnology. She has also completed a Graduate Certificate of Applied Science (University of Sydney), focusing on ecology and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Prior to her graduate position, she participated in the Chevron Vacation Program and was involved in developing avenues for promoting environmental stewardship. Part of her role with the Australasia Strategic Business Unit Environment Team is to continue to develop an attitude of environmental stewardship throughout the company by demonstrating the unique characteristics of Barrow Island.

Chevron's Policy on Working in Sensitive Areas

Protecting the safety and health of people and the environment is a Chevron core value. Therefore, we:

- Strive to design our facilities and conduct our operations to avoid adverse impacts to human health and to operate in an environmentally sound, reliable and efficient manner.
- Conduct our operations responsibly in all areas, including environments with sensitive biological characteristics.

Chevron strives to avoid or reduce significant risks and impacts our projects and operations may pose to sensitive species, habitats and ecosystems. This means that we:

- Integrate biodiversity into our business decision-making and management through our Operational Excellence (OE) management system.
- Drive and assess our performance relating to biodiversity through key OE expectations, such as Environmental Stewardship, and processes, including HES Due Diligence for Property Transfers; Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment; and Risk Management.
- Understand that humans and the natural environment are interdependent and interact with each other in various ways. In managing our impacts we consider those interrelationships and the functions ecosystems perform in supporting sustainable economic development.

Chevron recognises that our activities could affect particularly sensitive or valuable biodiversity inside or outside of legally-designated protected areas. Therefore we:

- Decide whether and how to operate in a protected or sensitive area, based on consideration of the specific circumstances of the area and operation involved.
- Operate in such areas only with government legal authorisation, and where we are confident we can comply with all regulatory requirements and use operating practices appropriately protective of the area.
- Use our OE processes to avoid or minimise potential risks of our operations to sensitive biological resources and seek ways to make positive contributions to biodiversity conservation in the area.

Chevron undertakes activities to raise internal and external awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and how the company is addressing it. This includes:

- Communicating about our biodiversity-related activities to employees and outside audiences, such as through our Corporate Responsibility report.
- Engaging with government, local communities and others to understand and work to address significant biodiversity issues in areas where we operate.
- Participating in industry associations and other forums to share and promote best practices for biodiversity conservation.
- Seeking to understand and, where appropriate, participating in development of external
 policy-making activities that affect our operations, such as those adopted under the
 UN Convention on Biological Diversity and national, regional and local biodiversity
 policies and plans.
- Working with a variety of external organisations to make positive contributions to biodiversity conservation in areas where we operate and globally.

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Barrow Island is the home of the Gorgon Project - one of the world's largest natural gas projects and the largest single resource project in Australia's history. The Gorgon Project will develop the Greater Gorgon Area gas fields, located about 130 kilometres off the north-west coast of Western Australia.

The Chevron-operated Gorgon Project is a joint venture between the Australian subsidiaries of Chevron (approximately 47 percent), ExxonMobil (25 percent), Shell (25 percent), Osaka Gas (1.25 percent), Tokyo Gas (1 percent) and Chubu Electric Power (0.417 percent).

Introduction

About Barrow Island

Barrow Island is a nature reserve located approximately 70 kilometres off the north-west coast of Western Australia. It is Western Australia's second largest island. The nature reserve is approximately 25 km long by 10 km wide and totals approximately 23,400 hectares above the high-tide mark; however, the reserve's area is much greater as it also extends into the intertidal zone.

Over geological time, the land mass that became Barrow Island experienced several sea level changes connecting and separating the flora and fauna from the nearby Australian mainland. More recently, 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, rising sea levels once again separated Barrow Island from the mainland.





Barrow Island has a special place in Western Australia's history, geography and environmental management. In 1910, Barrow Island was designated as a Class 'A' status Nature Reserve reflecting its importance as a refuge for wildlife species, some of which are native to Barrow Island and some of which have vulnerable and/or threatened populations on the mainland.

While Barrow Island is an important island from an environmental perspective, it also hosts one of Australia's largest onshore oilfields, and is now home to the Gorgon Project.

Barrow Island is vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia and is a model for environmental management. After oil was discovered on Barrow Island in 1964, the island was actively managed by West Australian Petroleum up to 2000, and since then by Chevron Australia. This management has ensured the nature conservation values and production values on the island are



balanced between oil extraction, wildlife and landscape conservation, and the study and preservation of features of archaeological, historic and scientific interest.

Almost 2600 species of terrestrial and subterranean plants and animals have been regularly recorded on Barrow Island. These include 378 native plants, 13 mammal species (including two species of bats), at least 119 types of terrestrial and migratory birds, 43 species of terrestrial reptiles, three subterranean vertebrates (an eel, a fish and a snake), over 2000 terrestrial invertebrates, and at least 34 species of subterranean invertebrates.

The marine environment is just as diverse, hosting a rich community of coral, seagrass, macroalgae and other benthic invertebrate species. Four species of marine turtle nest on Barrow Island, with Flatback and Green Turtles being the most common.

The continued survival of many of these species on Barrow Island is a direct result of the absence of introduced predators (foxes, cats)



and competitors (rabbits, goats) that have contributed to their decline on the mainland; the maintenance of environmental processes on the island; and the resilience of species that have evolved in an environment which experiences natural dynamic climatic change over time.

Chevron Australia's key environmental objective is to protect the conservation and biodiversity values of Barrow Island. This means ensuring the survival of the wildlife habitats upon which they depend. Protection of the island's conservation values focuses on four key areas: quarantine management to ensure non-indigenous species do not enter the island; workforce education on the environmental values of Barrow Island; progressive rehabilitation to reinstate disused production areas; and careful planning to maintain the ecosystem functions. Over the past 40 years, a strict environmental management plan has enabled petroleum activities to successfully coexist with Barrow Island's unique flora and fauna.

Mammals on Barrow Island

Mammals frequent and occupy all habitats on Barrow Island, including coastal areas, inland scrublands, termite mounds, rocky outcrops on the west coast, and subterranean caves accessible from the surface.

Barrow Island hosts many mammal species that are now absent or rarely seen across other parts of Australia. The diversity of mammals includes large marsupials (wallabies, burrowing bettongs, bandicoots, possums), small carnivorous marsupials, native rats and mice, and microbats. Each group of mammal species (insectivores, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores) occupies a particular niche in their habitat, and each species has evolved in an environment



that experiences natural dynamic climatic change over time. This diversity is a legacy of what was present on the Australian mainland prior to European settlement.

Mammals on Barrow Island are important because they remain isolated from several key threats, such as introduced predators (fox, cat) and competitors (rabbits, goats) that have contributed to their decline on the mainland.

Most mammals are active between dusk and dawn so as to avoid hot daytime temperatures. Many are well-adapted to the desert - they conserve energy by resting under shade or in underground shelters, and get water from their food and/or dew. Like plants, mammals on the island breed in response to rain - the resulting flush of growth to the landscape (flowers, seeds, and insects) provides important food sources for breeding.

This booklet on mammals is part of a series of Barrow Island nature books, created to help Chevron Australia personnel and visitors to the island understand the diverse and interesting wildlife that exists on Barrow Island. All wildlife is protected on the island so when visiting please ensure that you do not touch or handle flora or fauna without a valid license or permit. If you would like further information about the mammals on the island, do not hesitate to contact one of the environmental specialists on-site or in the Australasia Strategic Business Unit. Scientific names of mammals in this book follow the taxonomy of the Western Australian Museum.

Enjoy reading about mammals of Barrow Island and please look out for additional booklets in this series.

Water Rat

(Hydromys chrysogaster)

Description: The Water Rat is a large rodent with partial webbing between its toes. On Barrow Island, the colour of its fur tends towards grey on top and white underneath. The occasional albino Water Rat has been sighted on east coast beaches. The tail has thick, black hair with a white tip on the end. The Water Rat has a long nose with many whiskers, and small ears.

Head to body length: 230-370 mm Tail length: 230-325 mm

Distribution: The Water Rat is widely distributed around Australia and New Guinea. On Barrow Island, the Water Rat is mainly restricted to the coastline, and particularly to the mangrove areas.

Preferred Habitat: Range of habitats that are close to permanent water, including fresh, brackish and marine waters.

Behaviour and Breeding: Water Rats are opportunistic feeders and their prey includes insects, fish, crustaceans and mussels as well as frogs, lizards, small mammals, fresh carrion and birds. On Barrow Island, Water Rats are also known to feed on turtle eggs and hatchlings.

Breeding mostly occurs during spring to late summer, however, Water Rats are known to breed throughout the year. Nests are built among rocky solution holes along the coast, or at the end of tunnels dug into banks. Up to five litters are produced annually, each with three to four young. Water Rats are shy creatures and often the only evidence of their presence is the webbed footprints left on the beach.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The Water Rat has a Priority 4 ranking in the DEC Priority Listing. It is listed as of least concern in the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. However, it is not listed on the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WA), nor the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.



Photos - Top: Russell Lagdon, Bottom: Kathie Atkinson

Western Chestnut Mouse

(Pseudomys nanus)

Description: The Western Chestnut Mouse is an island variant of the Western Chestnut Mouse also found in north-west Western Australia and in the northern regions of the Northern Territory. This small rodent has short limbs and small round ears with light brown fur on top, light-orange brown on the flanks and a white underbelly. Unlike the Rock Rat, the Western Chestnut Mouse has a skinny tail.

This island form was, until recently, referred to as the Barrow Island Chestnut Mouse; recent genetic work has shown that it is not a true subspecies but is an island form of the mainland species.

Head to body length: 80-140 mm Tail length: 70-120 mm

Distribution: The Western Chestnut Mouse occurs mainly in northern Australia from Barrow Island eastwards to the Kimberley and north-west Queensland, including several islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria in the Northern Territory. The mouse is widespread across Barrow Island.

Preferred Habitat: Primarily spinifex and coastal vegetation.

Behaviour and Breeding: The Western Chestnut Mouse is active at night and sleeps during the day in a grass nest. Its diet is made up of mostly native grasses and seeds. Breeding generally occurs in response to rainfall, often during the wet season, however, they may breed throughout the year with favourable conditions. Females have four teats, distinguishing them from the introduced House Mouse.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The mouse is not listed as threatened in the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA). It is not listed in the 2008 International Union for *Conservation of Nature Red List* nor the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.*



Photos - Kathie Atkinson

Common Rock-rat

(Zyzomys argurus)

Description: The Common Rock-rat is a small rodent with an average body weight of 36 grams. The colour of its fur is a sandy brown on top and a cream underneath. The tail of the rat is lightly furred, thicker at the base and tapers to a terminal tuft. It has broad hind feet with large pads enabling it to leap among rocks with ease.

Head to body length: 85-100 mm Tail length: up to 125 mm (often damaged)

Distribution: The distribution of the Common Rock-rat extends from areas in the northern part of Western Australia, including Barrow Island, through to the tropical zones of the Northern Territory and Queensland. This species is widespread across Barrow Island.

Preferred Habitat: The Common Rock-rat is especially suited to living in areas of broken rock fragments such as limestone formations and scree slopes. It occurs in beach foredunes and regularly visits artificial habitats such as store and accommodation rooms.

Behaviour And Breeding: The diet of the Common Rock-rat consists of grains and seeds; however, it has been observed to eat insects.

Females have four teats. Breeding can occur all year round with litters containing four young. When large, the young are dragged around by the female while still attached to her teats.

During periods of abundant food, the Common Rock-rat stores fat in its tail, especially towards its base.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The Common Rock-rat is listed as of least concern on the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. It is not listed in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act nor the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WA).



Photos - Top: Russell Lagdon, Bottom: Stewart McDonald

Black-flanked Rock-wallaby

(Petrogale lateralis lateralis)

Description: The Black-flanked Rock-wallaby is a dark grey-brown marsupial with a distinctive white cheek-stripe as well as a dark brown to black stripe from between the ears to beyond the shoulders. It can weigh up to five kilograms.

Head to body length: 450-530 mm Tail length: 480-600 mm

Distribution: Populations are scattered around the western part of Western Australia with two isolated populations on Barrow Island and Salisbury Island. On Barrow Island, the rock-wallaby is restricted to the west coast.

Preferred Habitat: Cliffs and rock-piles such as the limestone outcrops and coastal cliffs.

Behaviour and Breeding: Rock-wallabies are typically shy and will often remain poised on rocks looking down into the valleys, or will make a fast escape along rocks and into caves if surprised. The diet of the wallaby is thought to consist of grasses and some fruits, the leaves of shrubs, and figs. Rocky cliffs with adequate shelter are used for breeding. The young are kept in the female's pouch, with reproduction thought to occur all year round depending on seasonal rainfall.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The Black-flanked Rock-wallaby is listed as vulnerable in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, listed as threatened in the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA) and as near threatened in the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. It is the least abundant mammal on Barrow Island, with only a few hundred known to occur along the west coast cliffs and valleys.



Photos - Russell Lagdon

Barrow Island Euro

(Macropus robustus isabellinus)

Description: The Barrow Island Euro is smaller than its Common Euro counterpart in the Pilbara on mainland Australia. It has a reddish coat with lighter fur underneath and on its tail, as well as large rounded ears. The Barrow Island Euro is also known as the Hill Kangaroo, Biggada, or Wallaroo.

Head to body length: 1.1-1.6 m Tail length: 0.5-0.9 m

Distribution: The Barrow Island Euro is widespread across Barrow Island.

Preferred Habitat: Occupies areas dominated by tall vegetation and shade. The Euro remains close to water sources during periods of high temperatures. They often shelter in the shade among infrastructure (e.g. cars, buildings) on the island.

Behaviour and Breeding: Along with several other grasses, part of the diet for the Euro on Barrow Island is thought to be the developing flower stalks and growth tips of the *Triodia* spinifex, a dominant vegetation cover on the island. It grazes on grasses to obtain transpired moisture, particularly at dawn. While it remains opportunistic to drinking available water on the island, it can survive in the absence of free-water for some time.

The Barrow Island Euro is thought to be able to breed continuously throughout the year and females have been known to have up to three offspring at different stages of development at any one time. Breeding reflects the available moisture in the environment - the more moisture available, the longer the breeding season.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The Barrow Island Euro is listed as vulnerable in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and as threatened in the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA). It is not listed in the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.



Photo - Dorian Moro

Spectacled Hare-wallaby

(Lagorchestes conspicillatus conspicillatus)

Description: The Spectacled Hare-wallaby on Barrow Island is a small marsupial that weighs between two and four kilograms. It has an orange ring around its eye, which is where it gets its name. It has grey coloured fur, a white underbelly, a white hip stripe, and dark paws and feet.

Head to body length: 400-470 mm Tail length: 370-490 mm

Distribution: The Spectacled Hare-wallaby is widely distributed over the island, however, the distribution of the hare-wallaby on the mainland has reduced significantly where it occurs sparsely from Queensland across to Western Australia.

Preferred Habitat: Large tussocks of *Triodia* among dunes, floodout flats, and other habitat on the island where there is thick cover.

Behaviour and Breeding: The Spectacled Hare-wallaby is usually a solitary feeder. The diet is poorly known, however, it is thought that it feeds on grasses and seeds as well as the tips of *Triodia* in long-unburnt areas. The hare-wallaby is most active at night so as to avoid the heat of the day. They are highly adapted to conserve water, obtaining all their water from their food sources.

Breeding occurs throughout the year, although peaks in breeding occur during March and September. The joey remains in the female's pouch for some 150 days. The Spectacled Hare-wallaby spends the day in hides tunnelled into large Triodia hummocks, which protect them from predators and where the temperature remains cooler than outside.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The Spectacled Hare-wallaby is listed as vulnerable in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and as threatened in the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA). It is listed as of least concern on the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.



Photo - Dorian Moro

Barrow Island Golden Bandicoot

(Isoodon auratus barrowensis)

Description: The Barrow Island Golden Bandicoot has golden-brown fur on its back and sides with greyish fur underneath. It has black eyes and a long, flat pointed nose. It can weigh up to 600 g when mature.

Head to body length: 190-220 mm Tail length: 84-94 mm

The current naming of this species is undergoing review. There is now genetic evidence to suggest this island form is actually a variant of the common Brown Bandicoot known across south-western Australia. If so, its nomenclature and conservation status may change.

Distribution: The Barrow Island Golden Bandicoot is the most common mammal on Barrow Island and the only other places it is known to occur include Middle Island (south of Barrow Island), a sparse population on the north-west of the Kimberley and on Marchinbar Island (Northern Territory).

Preferred Habitat: Typically shelters in limestone crevices, spinifex tussocks and termite mounds across most of Barrow Island.

Behaviour and Breeding: Foraging for food mainly occurs after dusk or before dawn. Bandicoots are omnivorous: their diet includes ants, termites, moths, turtle eggs and hatchlings, small reptiles, roots and tubers. The nest is made from flattened heaps of sticks and debris with a hidden entrance. Breeding is seasonal with a peak during the summer period.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The Barrow Island Golden Bandicoot is listed as vulnerable in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and as threatened in the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA). It is not listed in the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.



Photos - Top: Dorian Moro, Bottom: Jiri Lochman

Barrow Island Boodie (Burrowing Bettong)

(Bettongia lesueur unnamed subsp)

Description: The Barrow Island Boodie (also known as the Burrowing Bettong) is a small, nocturnal, rat-like kangaroo with grey fur on top and light grey fur below. It has short, round ears and a lightly haired, thick tail.

Head to body length: average 280 mm Tail length: average 215 mm

Distribution: The subspecies on Barrow Island has been successfully reintroduced to nearby Boodie Island. The other subspecies of boodies are found on Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay, Western Australia. While initially restricted to islands because of their extinction from the mainland (due to feral cats, foxes, and rabbits), a population has recently been re-established at Heirisson Prong in Shark Bay.

Preferred Habitat: Boodies show no preference for a particular habitat on Barrow Island. They live in a complex warren of underground burrows that are typically found across the island in well-drained limestone cap-rock or caves, though often associated with fig trees (which provide food).

Behaviour and Breeding: This nocturnal marsupial is omnivorous, so it feeds on a variety of fruits, seeds, nuts, flowers and termites. Breeding can occur throughout the year with gestation lasting for 21 days. The single young remains in the pouch for 115 days and females can produce up to three young per year. Boodies are a social species and live in groups of between two and six individuals per warren.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The boodie is listed as vulnerable in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, and as threatened in the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA) and near threatened on the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, warrens (as critical habitat to the species) remain protected on Barrow Island.



Photos - Top: Russell Lagdon, Bottom: Dorian Moro

Northern Brushtail Possum

(Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis)

Description: The coat of the Northern Brushtail Possum is usually grey to reddish-brown with a white underbelly. It has flat, oval ears and can reach the size of a small cat. Males tend to be larger than females.

Head to body length: 360-460 mm Tail length: 240-300 mm

Distribution: The Northern Brushtail Possum occurs in the Northern Territory and the northern part of Western Australia, including Barrow Island.

Preferred Habitat: Lives in a diverse range of habitats, sheltering in termite mounds, caves and limestone crevices. As there are few trees on the island, possums spend a considerable amount of time foraging on the ground.

Behaviour and Breeding: The Northern Brushtail Possum is nocturnal and hence does most of its foraging for leaves, flowers and fruits during the night. Around the camp they have been seen to feed on insects.

Breeding occurs all year round with females able to produce up to two young per year. The young spend four to five months in the mother's pouch and remain with the mother for several more months.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. The Northern Brushtail Possum is not listed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA) nor the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.



Photos - Top: Russell Lagdon, Bottom: Dorian Moro

Planigale (Planigale sp.)

Description: The Planigale is a carnivorous marsupial with a somewhat compressed skull and a pointy nose. Its fur is bridled cinnamon-grey above, white below. The ears are small, rounded and lie flat against the skull. The animals are small, and may weigh up to 10 g. It is uncertain how this island form compares to those found on mainland Australia; as such, the species on Barrow Island currently remains unnamed.

Head to body length: 70-80 mm Tail length: 60-80 mm

Distribution: Trapping studies suggest this species is sparsely distributed across Barrow Island, though is rarely seen.

Preferred Habitat: It has been collected along limestone cliffs and caves on the western side of Barrow Island, termite mounds, inland spinifex (*Triodia*) dominated vegetation associations, and among coastal vegetation.

Behaviour and Breeding: Planigales are active at night. Insects form the major part of their diet. They obtain their water from their food. Small prey are killed with quick bites. Like the rock rat, the tail stores fat and becomes swollen during times when food sources are abundant.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. This island form is not listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA) nor the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.



Photos - Top: Dorian Moro, Bottom: Kathie Atkinson

Pseudantechinus

(Pseudantechinus sp.)

Description: The Pseudantechinus is a small marsupial with rich red-brown fur above, buff below. It has a distinguishing dark central head stripe and pale eye rings. The tail becomes fattened at its base during times when food is abundant. It is uncertain how this island form compares to those found on mainland Australia; as such the species on Barrow island remains unnamed.

Head to body length: 90-110 mm Tail length: 55-65 mm

Distribution: Probably widely distributed on Barrow Island, though it is rarely seen.

Preferred Habitat: Recorded in wattle thickets in coastal dunes, and will live in termite mounds as refuge sites, feeding on the lizards and termites within.

Behaviour and Breeding: The Pseudantechnius is a carnivore, feeding on insects and lizards. Females lack a true pouch, with young protected by a circular patch of skin on the abdomen. The young will travel on the back of the female. When too large for this travel, young are placed in a nest while the mother forages for food. Individuals are primarily active at night, although similar species have been found to be active at dawn and dusk. Individuals often sunbathe on rocks to capture the warmth of the early or late sun.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. This island form is not listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA) nor the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.



Photos - Top: Kathie Atkinson, Bottom: Alayna Beattie

Bats (Common Sheathtail Bat - Taphozous georgianus) (Finlayson's Cave Bat - Vespadelus finlaysoni)

Description: Both species are referred to as a microbat because of their small size and their use of echolocation to search for their prey. Unlike Finalyson's Cave Bat, the Common Sheathtail Bat has a tail that is usually firmly attached to the tail membrane. They are fast fliers. Their fur is dark brown above, and lighter brown underneath.

Common Sheathtail Bat Head to body length: 75-90 mm Tail length: 20-30 mm

Finlayson's Cave Bat Head to body length: 35-45 mm Tail length: 30-40 mm

Distribution: Both species may be seen flying at dusk on Barrow Island.

Preferred Habitat: On Barrow Island, the main permanent residence of the Common Sheathtail Bat is limestone cliff caves, dolines, and solution pipes, although they will roost in small fissures in rocks.

Finlayson's Cave Bat occurs in caves, crevices and solution pipes.

Behaviour and Breeding: Bats eat a variety of small insects. The Common Sheathtail Bat roosts separately or in small roosts, however, Finlayson's Cave Bat roosts in large colonies. Both species are particularly active on warm nights.

Conservation Status: All mammals are protected on Barrow Island. Neither species are listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, or the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 1950 (WA). However, Finlayson's Cave Bat is listed as of least concern on the 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.



Photos - Kathie Atkinson

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Barrow Island Euro		
Barrow Island Spectacled Hare-wallaby		
Barrow Island Golden Bandicoot		
Boodie		
Northern Brushtail Possum		
Planigale		
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Common Sheathtail Bat		
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Photo - Jiri Lochman