



Cute carnivores fighting for their quollity of life

THEY are among Australia's most beautiful native creatures and most at threat.

These western quolls, rarely seen by humans, are found in just a few places in Western Australia and it is believed numbers are declining.

They used to occur in Queensland but became extinct in 1907, leaving only the spotted-tailed and northern quoll.

The good news is that northern quolls have been found at Bush Heritage Australia's Carnarvon Station Reserve, a former cattle property abutting

Carnarvon National Park in central Queensland. Quolls were known to be in the park, particularly the Mt Moffatt section, but have been hammered by the spread of toads.

Bush Heritage spokesman Michael Fogarty said yesterday that after the quolls were found on the reserve, management regimes were altered to give them their best chance of survival.

The main focus was to remove stock dams that allowed toads a place to breed. The fierce, carnivorous quolls are often

killed when trying to eat poisonous toads.

Mr Fogarty said it was something of a dream for BHA staff that two of the organisation's WA properties, Eurardy and Charles Darwin Reserve, might eventually have western quolls.

"Translocation programs are under way but it will be quite some time before they look at bringing them back to Queensland," he said. "It's sad. Even the northern quolls are contracting in Queensland."

Brian Williams



UNDER SIEGE: The number of western quolls are in decline, while Queensland's northern quoll is also battling for survival