

## Quoll sightings sign of healthy habitat in mid-west WA

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National conservation not-for-profit Bush Heritage Australia has discovered four Western Quolls (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) at two of its midwest Western Australian reserves over the space of two weeks.

Two Quolls, or Chuditch as they're widely known from the Noongar name from South West WA, were recorded at monitoring cameras on [Eurardy Reserve](#) on Nhandu country near Kalbarri and [Hamelin Station Reserve](#) on Nhandu and Malgana country near Shark Bay.

"Chuditch were once found across more than two-thirds of Australia but the only wild populations remaining are in the southwest corner of WA and reintroduced populations in South Australia and WA. That's why it's so exciting to see them turning up on our reserves," said Bush Heritage ecologist Ben Parkhurst.

"Spot patterning on Quolls is unique to each individual animal, similar to human fingerprints, so analysis of the camera trap data indicates that they are all different quolls. We plan to make our reserves even more quoll friendly through the continuation of our integrated pest management program and ongoing camera trap and sand pad monitoring."

It's the first quoll sighting at Hamelin under Bush Heritage management, and it's believed to have been many years since they were seen in the wider Shark Bay district. One was recorded in sand dune country and the other about 10 kilometres away on Hamelin's coastline. Eurardy's two quolls are the second and third records for the reserve, following the inaugural Quoll sighting in December 2020.

Bush Heritage believes the Chuditch are travellers from the well-established Quoll population at Kalbarri National Park, managed by WA's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). Around 50 Quolls were translocated to the park from a captive breeding program at Perth Zoo about two decades ago and have persisted there successfully ever since. DBCA has run a concentrated feral predator control program at Kalbarri for more than 20 years, setting the scene for its quoll population to expand and move outside the borders of the park in search of new territory.

Kalbarri, which sits directly to Eurardy's west, is connected to Hamelin by a corridor of nature reserves including Toolonga Nature Reserve and crown land stretches almost 200km down to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

For interviews, please contact Bush Heritage Media Coordinator Kate Thorburn on **0407 004 139**

[Download images of the quoll sightings and Bush Heritage's Eurardy and Hamelin reserves here.](#)