

## **PEPPIES FOR POSSUMS PROJECT DETAILS**

### **Aim/Purpose:**

- Increase awareness of the Western Ringtail Possum as a threatened species (community workshops, media promotion, disseminating information to community and government agencies)
- Undertake assessment of Ringtail habitat between Busselton and Dunsborough
- Provide funding incentives and management advice to private landholders to protect and enhance habitat of Ringtail possums (funding for fencing remnant vegetation, buffer planting and revegetation, weed and feral animal control)
- Undertake revegetation with Peppermint trees on private and public land to provide ecological linkages for Ringtail possums

### **Start Date:**

1<sup>st</sup> July, 2006

### **Finish Date:**

31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008

### **Project Partners:**

- Geographe Catchment Council
- Western Ringtail Action Group

### **Project Stakeholders:**

- Department of Environment and Conservation
- Geographe Catchment Council
- Western Ringtail Action Group
- The Shire of Busselton
- Busselton Naturalists Club
- Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre
- FAWNA
- Community members
- Dunsborough Coast and Landcare Group
- Possum scientists
- Local Vets

### **Background:**

The Western Ringtail Possum is restricted to the South West of WA. It has disappeared from 90% of its original range due to land clearing, logging, inappropriate fire regimes and predation by feral cats, foxes and domestic animals. The WRP is currently classified as “Vulnerable” under the EPBC Act and is a Schedule 1 species (fauna which is rare or likely to become extinct) under the Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. Only three large populations remain. The densest (up to 20 WRP’s per hectare) and largest population occurs in and around the town of Busselton in the southern extremity of the Swan Coastal Plain.

### **Main Achievements:**

- Publication of a Western Ringtail Possum survey “*An important local population of the Western Ringtail Possum, Pseudocheirus occidentalis: a 2006 survey study of the population and habitat in the Busselton localities of Siesta Park and Kealy.*”
- Organising 2 community workshops
- Planting 5,800 peppies in Busselton this winter
- Supporting the Western Ringtail Action Group which brings together members of the community, non-government organisations, scientists and government agencies

**Project Officer:**

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