

Southern brown bandicoot

The southern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus obesulus*) is a small brown mammal which is listed as endangered under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), and is classified as near threatened in Victoria.

Identification

A small, furry, brown-grey animal that grows to around 30cm long, with a tail half the length of its body. They are different from black rats as they have a long pronounced snout, large rump and creamy under belly fur.

Natural habitat

The best habitat for southern brown bandicoots is dense understory vegetation, such as small shrubs and long grass. Bandicoots live in both native and exotic vegetation. This vegetation provides protection from predators (foxes, cats and dogs), especially if plants are prickly. Weeds such as blackberry, logs and woody debris also provide shelter and nesting sites. Weed control and site clean-up should therefore be done in stages, so there is always protective cover available while waiting for newly revegetated plants to establish

Current threat

Threats to the bandicoot include the continued expansion of development, predation by feral and domestic animals, clearing of native vegetation, isolation, disruption to movement.

What can I do?

- Practice responsible pet ownership, including de-sexing pets and keeping cats indoors.
- Gradually remove weeds from your property, and replace with indigenous plants suitable for bandicoots.
- Protect and increase remnant vegetation on your property.
- Build a southern brown bandicoot hide (house).
- Become a 'Biosphere bandicoot buddy'.

Bandicoot hide (house) – artificial shelter

Southern brown bandicoots will take any opportunity to find somewhere to live. They have been seen living under houses and school classrooms, and sometimes even in old car bodies. If natural habitat is scarce, creating artificial habitat can give bandicoots a safe place to live and raise young.

More information

Council's website (cardinia.vic.gov.au) has more information about the southern brown bandicoot, including how to construct an artificial shelter.

