



Watershed
Landcare
Incorporated

SPOTTED- TAILED QUOLL



*Dasyurus
maculatus*

*in the Watershed
Landcare region*

SPECIES PROFILE

The Spotted-tailed Quoll is one of four Australian quoll species and is the largest remaining native carnivore in NSW. It is about the size of a domestic cat and differs most obviously with its shorter legs and pointed face. It has rich-rust to dark-brown fur above, with irregular white spots on the back and tail, and a pale belly. The spotted tail distinguishes it from all other Australian mammals, including other quoll species. However, the spots may be indistinct on juvenile Spotted-tailed Quolls.

This species uses hollow-bearing trees, fallen logs, other animal burrows, small caves and rock outcrops as den sites. Their average litter size is five and they mature at approximately one year of age. Life expectancy in the wild is 3-4 years.

They are mostly nocturnal, although will hunt during the day and while spending most of their time on the ground, they are excellent climbers. A generalist predator with a preference for medium-sized (0.5-5 kg) mammals, they consume a variety of prey, including gliders, possums, small wallabies, rats, birds, bandicoots, rabbits, reptiles and insects and even eat carrion and will take domestic fowls.

Spotted-tailed Quolls use communal 'latrine sites', often on flat rocks. Such sites may be visited by multiple individuals and can be recognised by the accumulation of the sometimes characteristic 'twisty-shaped' faeces. Females occupy home ranges of 200-500 hectares, while males occupy very large home ranges to over 4000 hectares. Quolls are known to traverse their home ranges along densely vegetated creeklines.

*Conservation Status in NSW:
Vulnerable*

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

The Spotted-tailed Quoll is found in eastern NSW, and is recorded across a range of habitat types, including open forest, woodland, and inland riparian forests.

Sightings have been recorded right across the eastern side of the Watershed Landcare region, east of the Castlereagh Highway. Locations of sightings include Ferntree Gully and Totnes Valley.

The range of the Spotted-tailed Quoll has contracted considerably since European settlement. Only in Tasmania is it still considered relatively common.



SPOTTED-TAILED QUOLL



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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Spotted-tailed Quolls raiding your poultry? You can still enjoy their visits and keep your chooks safe. Rather than taking direct action against them, check out some of the ideas at this site: [Protect your chooks and save our quolls | NSW Environment, Energy and Science](#)
- Participate in community pest management programs for introduced predators to combat competition by, and direct impacts from, foxes and cats.
- Where they exist on your property, retain and protect large, forested areas with hollow logs and rocky outcrops, particularly areas with thick understorey and/or dense vegetation along drainage lines.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Websites that allow you to record your sightings of the Spotted-tailed Quoll (listed right), also enable you to search records for local populations of this species and others.

Information for this fact sheet was sourced from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment. You can visit their website for additional information via the following link:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ThreatenedSpeciesApp

REPORT A SIGHTING

Reporting your sightings of threatened species such as the Spotted-tailed Quoll contributes to our understanding of the species' populations in our local area.

The sightings you report may be used in research and conservation programs and will help guide decisions on where government and land management activities will occur.

You can record your sightings online using:

- the NSW BioNet Atlas:
www.bionet.nsw.gov.au
- the Atlas of Living Australia:
www.ala.org.au