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## **Celebrate Bilbies with Bush Heritage this Easter**

The Bilby conjures images of soft floppy ears, blue-grey fur and...chocolate!

In recent times this gorgeous native marsupial has become a symbol of Australian Easter. This year, national conservation organisation Bush Heritage Australia is calling on all Australians to help protect the real thing.

Bilbies were once found across 70% of Australia but their range has shrunk dramatically due to predation by feral cats and foxes, competition with rabbits, land clearing and changes to traditional Aboriginal fire management.

To support our work with the Martu people in the Birriliburu Indigenous Protected Area to protect Bilbies, buy a Bilby Bushgift today. Browse our full [bushgifts card range](#) here.

In fact, the term Bilby refers to the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) - the only remaining Bilby species after the Lesser Bilby was declared extinct in the 1950s.

So this Easter, Bush Heritage is calling on Australians to purchase a virtual Bilby giftcard instead of an Easter Egg, so that this precious species can thrive long into the future.

It's estimated that the Bilby now occupies just 15% of Australia. One of the places where the Bilby persists is at the Birriliburu Indigenous Protected Area in the Little Sandy and Gibson Deserts of Western Australia.

Birriliburu Rangers call the Bilby *Muntalngaku*. Through the Birriliburu Partnership with Bush Heritage and Desert Support Services, the rangers are carrying out vital Bilby conservation work on their country- which spans 6.6 million hectares. The rangers have been putting out motion-sensor cameras, sharing stories, carrying out ground burns and monitoring for the Bilby.

"If anyone is going to save the Bilby and the other animals in this landscape, it's going to be Indigenous rangers through programs like the Birriliburu Partnership," said Bush Heritage senior ecologist Vanessa Westcott.

"Indigenous rangers are passionate about the Bilby – they have the stories and the direct connection, and they are experts in tracking, finding burrow systems and identifying suitable Bilby habitat."

Finally, a few Bilby facts:

- Members of the Bandicoot family
- They are fully nocturnal which makes them hard to study!
- Expert diggers, they dig multiple burrows that can spiral down 2 metres below the ground
- Their diet is varied – they use their long sensitive nose to sniff out seeds, fungi, roots, tubers, fruit, invertebrates and small lizards.
- Bilbies are suited to arid regions like deserts because they don't need to drink water – they get all the moisture they need from their food.



### **Media enquiries**

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## **About Bush Heritage Australia**

The Australian bush is a place of outback wonders and rugged beauty. Founded by Dr Bob Brown in 1991, Bush Heritage is an independent not-for-profit that buys and manages land, and partners with Aboriginal people, to protect our irreplaceable landscapes and magnificent native species. Together with our partners, we protect 8.86 million hectares – that's more than all of Tasmania.

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