



FACTSHEET

# Woodland habitat





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**Habitat type:** Woodland

**Habitat description:**

Rottnest's Woodland habitat is a key habitat for 43 species of bushbird and is made up of two tree species. These are the Rottnest Island Pine and the Rottnest Island Tea Tree. These species are native to the Island and used to cover over half of its landmass.

Clearing for farm land and firewood done by early European settlers, along with controlled fire damage, reduced the size of Rottnest's Woodland Community. The remaining trees cover only 4% of the Island and survive in scattered, small groups known as 'stands'.

Since 1963, the Rottnest Island Authority has been undertaking woodland restoration to preserve this Threatened Ecological Community and the animals and birds it supports.

Woodland restoration activities include seed collection, propagation (plant reproduction), planting and weed control.

Since 1995, only the two native island tree species have been planted.

On your visit to the Island, you will see woodland restoration underway in some fenced areas where young trees are growing.

**Conservation Status:**

Listed as a 'Vulnerable' Threatened Ecological Community under *The Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

**Local species:**

Rottnest Island Pine (*Callitris preissii*), Rottnest Island Tea Tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*), Western Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*), Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*).

**Threats:**

- Uncontrolled fire
- Weed invasion
- Quokka over-grazing

## DID YOU KNOW?

The gentle little Quokka can actually be a threat to the Woodland Community. Quokkas like to eat seedlings. When they eat too many, there are no new trees to replace the old trees when they die.

Around the Island you will see lots of green tree guards. These guards reduce this problem of over-grazing by protecting the seedlings and young trees from hungry Quokkas.