

Am I your BUSH Bud?

Southern Brown Bandicoot

About me:

Unbeknownst to many, the Southern Brown Bandicoot, is a marsupial, not a rodent. As an ecological engineer, the Bandicoot has an important role to play in maintaining its bushland home. It helps to aerate the soil and leaf litter assisting in natural litter breakdown, penetration of seedlings, organic mixing and thus improving nutrient availability for plants. The Bandicoot also helps to spread fungi through the ecosystem, assisting plants to increase nutrient absorption and facilitating the breakdown of dead material.

The Southern brown bandicoot is an omnivore and consumes a wide range of invertebrates, various plant material such as leaves, fruits and seeds and fungi. They mainly forage at night, consuming insects, earthworms, insect larvae and spiders. They also feed on plant tubers, roots and truffle-like fungi.



Threats:

Bandicoots, like many other marsupials, have undergone serious decline and significant contractions in distribution since European settlement. Reasons for their population decline include: Loss fragmentation of habitat; inappropriate burning regimes; predation by introduced predators such as cats, dogs and foxes; death or injury by fire and motor vehicles.

Become my Bush Bud!

Take a stand for Canberra's Nature and sign up to get the chance to walk with an expert in the habitat of the Southern Brown Bandicoot!

