



Report this pest



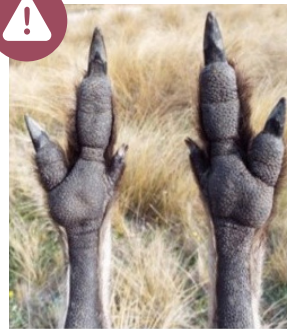
Bennett's wallaby

Why are they a pest?

Bennett's wallaby, often called red-necked wallaby, is a marsupial (a mammal that carries its joeys in a pouch) native to Tasmania, Australia. Bennett's wallabies were introduced to South Canterbury in 1874 for recreational hunting, and by the 1940s, they had become a significant pest.

Wallabies have the potential to significantly impact Otago's economy and biodiversity. They are elusive nocturnal animals that feed in the open at night and seek cover during the day.

Wallabies compete with livestock for food, with three wallabies eating as much as one stock unit. They can foul pasture, damage fences, destroy agricultural crops, contribute to erosion and kill plantation forest seedlings. Wallabies also stop native bush regeneration.



What do they look like?

- **Size:** Stand up to 80 centimetres with a tail length around 62 centimetres. Males can reach over 20 kilograms in weight, with females reaching 14 kilograms.
- **Appearance:** Grey, brown with reddish-brown shoulders and neck, and black-tipped hind feet and tail.
- **Signs:** They leave distinctive tracks; however, it is unusual for fully formed prints of the whole feet to be left at a site. Creek crossings, bare-ground tracks or clay slips are the best places to look. Sometimes, a tail drag mark can be seen on very soft ground or in snow. Their scat (poo) is a good indication that wallabies have been in an area. It is often pelleted and found in clumps, normally coarse in texture with vegetation fibres visible.
- **Similar species:** In Aotearoa New Zealand there are five species of wallaby. Bennett's wallaby is found in the South Island, while dama, parma, brush-tailed rock and swamp wallabies are only found in the North Island. Hares, deer and possums can appear similar when moving quickly.
- **Habitat:** Edges of dense scrub, pine plantations, native bush and heavy snow tussock are where they take refuge during the day. They feed along the edges of open areas of grasslands at night. They can be found anywhere below 2000 metres above sea level.

Common name:

Bennett's wallaby

Scientific name:

*Macropus rufogriseus
rufogriseus*

Management programme:

Eradication & site-led

The eradication programme aims to get rid of all of these pests in Otago. Site-led programmes have rules for specific pests that only apply in that area. Site-led areas have special biodiversity and other values to protect.



Report this pest!

If you have seen or suspect the presence of this pest, you **must report** the sighting at **reportwallabies.nz**

When can I spot them best?

The best times to spot Bennett's wallabies are at dawn and dusk, when they emerge to forage, particularly in open pasture or near ridgelines. During the day, they rest in dense cover, such as forest, scrub or tall tussock, before venturing out at night to feed in open areas.

What are the rules?

- 1 Everyone in Otago must destroy all Bennett's wallabies on the land they occupy.
- 2 Any person who sees or suspects the presence of Bennett's wallaby, whether dead or alive, anywhere in Otago, must immediately report the pest's presence and location. This is required even if the Bennett's wallaby is destroyed. You can do this by filling in a form at reportwallabies.nz
- 3 No one, other than an Authorised Person, shall keep, hold, enclose or otherwise harbour any Bennett's wallaby. This rule aims to prevent people actively attempting to establish a wallaby population in Otago.

These three rules aim to prevent wallabies from becoming established in the region and causing negative effects on economic and environmental values.

What should I do?

We need your help to get rid of this pest. Report any wallaby kills or sightings through the form at reportwallabies.nz

Control is a shared responsibility between ORC and land occupiers. This allows flexibility in designing the most effective and efficient control methods.

Shooting is the most effective form of control. Poison (using striker bait) is the best option for large numbers.

Occupiers are required to control Bennett's wallabies on their land where this can be done quickly and effectively. We understand that this can sometimes be difficult due to their range and low population numbers in Otago.

So, if you see a Bennett's wallaby, but you are not able to destroy it, **you must report the sighting immediately**. ORC will either support you in destroying the wallaby or undertake the control work.



Report this pest



Help us find Bennett's wallaby

You must notify Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme if you suspect the presence of this pest.

If you think you've seen them:



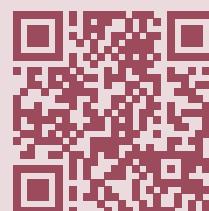
Note the location



Take a photo
(if possible)



Report this pest at
reportwallabies.nz



For more information, visit orc.govt.nz/wallaby