



Fourth Crossing Wildlife factsheet



Red Kangaroo

Macropus rufus
"red long-foot"

other names

Plains Kangaroo, Marloo and Blue Flyer



female



male



DESCRIPTION

Male: Head and body length 935-1500mm and a tail length of 710-1000mm. Weight 22-85kg. Mostly red in colour with distinct white underparts, although some males can be blue-grey in colour. Black and white patches on side of muzzle with broad white stripe from corner of mouth to base of ear. Naked rhinarium.

Female: Head and body length 745-1100mm and a tail length of 645-900mm. Weight 17-35kg. Appearance as per male, fur colour is mostly blue-grey, although some females can be red in colour as per the male.

Abundant in most areas of Central and Western Australia the Red Kangaroo can be found in the inner areas of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory and most parts of Western Australia (except the far north and far south areas of the state). It can also be found in the north-western tip of Victoria but is absent from Tasmania. The Red Kangaroo prefers shrub land, grassland and desert areas, preferring open plains.

It lives in mobs or small groups. The Red Kangaroo feeds mostly at night, or in the late evening and early morning and grazes mainly on grasses and some plants. Not all Red Kangaroos are red! Most males are red, but some males and most females are a grey or grey-blue colour. Male Red Kangaroos can grow to 1.15 metres in height, which is the second largest kangaroo (the Eastern Grey Kangaroo is the largest). Maturity is reached at around two to three years, however females can commence breeding six months earlier in good conditions. Pregnancy lasts 33 days.