

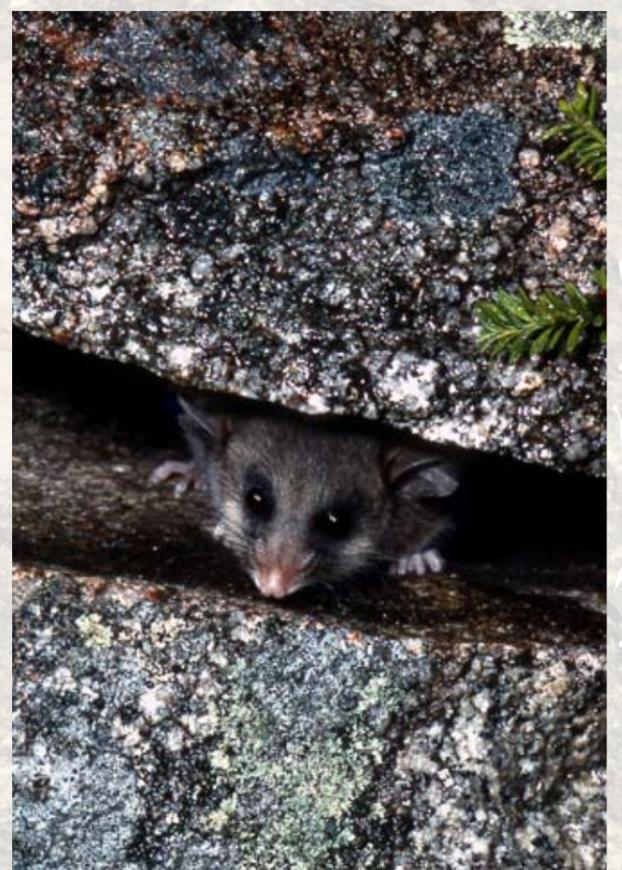
Bushrock belongs in the bush

not in
gardens



Bushrock belongs in the bush - not in gardens

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Bushrock and bushrock removal

Bushrock is loose fragile rock found on rock or soil surfaces and takes many lifetimes to develop. Many animals use these rock environments for shelter, to hide from predators, find food, avoid extreme weather and escape bushfires. Bushrock can also provide egg-laying sites for reptiles and habitat for many different plants, mosses, liverworts and lichens. The removal of bushrock can cause soil compaction, increased water runoff and turbidity, and sedimentation of water courses. It may also cause loss of plants and the reduction of seed germination, introduction of exotic seeds, soil erosion, and the reduction in shelter sites for animals.



R. Nicolai



N. Hinds

Since the early European settlement of NSW, bushrock has been used in landscaping and gardens to re-create natural bush settings, build fences or retaining walls, line pools, create waterfalls and other features, and as a base for orchids, lichens and mosses to grow on.

However, the demand for bushrock has in many cases depleted naturally occurring sources of bushrock and has serious implications to the plants and animals that depend on bushrock as a key component of their habitat. Therefore, efforts should be made keep bushrock where it belongs.



D. Pike

To minimise the impacts to threatened or protected native plants and animals in NSW, the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, lists the removal of bushrock from rock outcrops or from areas of native vegetation as a key threatening process. More information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/.

DECC/ML Librarian

DECC

D. Pike

It's illegal

Disturbance or removal of bushrock could result in a fine or prosecution. For instance, lifting or moving bushrock in a national park or other conservation reserves can incur fines of \$300. Furthermore, the damage or removal of bushrock carries greater penalties of up to \$1,000, six months imprisonment or both. Similarly the collection or removal of bushrock from state forests and Crown land reserves is prohibited. Some local councils regulate bushrock removal. Blue Mountains City Council and Hawkesbury City Council have prohibited the collection or removal of bushrock from bushland areas.



Area randomly patrolled
Penalties apply

How you can help

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) is coordinating various programs for the protection of biodiversity and species habitat. State and local government agencies and research institutions are undertaking various actions to contribute to these programs. More information on the recovery and threat abatement actions is available at www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au.

- **Use alternatives to bushrock:** To ensure that bushrock stays in the bush where it's needed as habitat for a variety of species, DECC encourages the use of alternatives for natural bushrock in and around your garden. Quarried rock or artificial rock are both readily available, and have been used to restore habitat for frogs and lizards. Railway sleepers, treated pine or concrete products may also provide alternatives to bushrock for retaining walls and the like.
- **Tread gently:** Whether you are bushwalking, mountain biking, rock climbing or 4WD driving, be mindful of where you tread or drive. Sandstone environments are fragile and bushrock can easily break if disturbed, contributing to habitat disturbance and loss. Keep to existing tracks and trails and obey signs for road closures or prohibited activities such as 'No motorbikes' or 'No dogs'. Don't move rocks around for use as cairns, seats, jumps or any other purpose. Minimal impact recreation is desirable and sustainable.



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