



**WHITEMAN PARK**  
RECREATION & CONSERVATION RESERVE

## MEDIA RELEASE

March 24, 2011

### **TWELVE MONTHS ON WHITEMAN PARK CELEBRATES THE SUCCESS OF WOODLAND RESERVES AND THE WOYLIE BREEDING PROGRAM**

This month is the first anniversary of the introduction of critically endangered woylies to Whiteman Park's premier conservation facility Woodland Reserve.

The Park is celebrating providing a safe, secure and successful breeding habitat for the woylie population one year on from its official launch.

In March 2010, the then Minister for Environment, Donna Faragher, officially launched this important conservation initiative that saw eight woylies, or brush-tailed bettongs (*Bettongia penicillata*) released into the reserve.

Park manager Steve Lowe said that the released woylies had taken to their new home with aplomb.

"Over the past year, at least eight woylie joeys have been sighted by Park staff in Woodland Reserve," he said.

Dr Christine Rafferty, the Environment and Natural Areas manager is excited about the number of joeys bred within the protected, predator-proof sanctuary of the reserve.

"The success of the woylies breeding is of huge importance for the species, which is listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature List."

The first woylie joey to be born in Woodland Reserve was affectionately named 'Tigger' by Park staff, and is now nearly ten months old.

Just last week, the newest member of the woylie population was spotted on one of Whiteman Park's nocturnal guided tours through the Woodland Reserve.

Dr Rafferty said the sighting of the new addition was a highlight of the tour and real privilege for the public.

"Every joey born into the reserve, safe from the threat of introduced predators demonstrates the importance of facilities like Woodland Reserve," she said.

Woodland Reserve was developed to showcase the exquisite regional biodiversity, whilst providing an important breeding facility for the state's endangered fauna.

A resounding success, the Reserve is now home to a number of quenda, or southern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*) with the tammar wallaby tipped to be just one of the many species that could call the reserve home in the future.



Daytime guided walks of the Reserve commence on 1 May and will be held every Sunday at 11.00am and 1.00pm.

For more information about Woodland Reserve, or to find out about guided tours, then go to [www.whitemanpark.com](http://www.whitemanpark.com) or call (08) 9209 6000.

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Note: IUCN stands for International Union for Conservation of Nature.

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