

Roles and Ecological outcomes of Arid Australian Fauna



Match the arid animal with its ecological outcome, and consider the impacts of Native Vs Introduced species:



The Greater Stick-Nest Rat (Native)

Role: Wopilkara are known to disturb soil through burrowing, and their nest-building contributes to seed distribution.

Outcome:

Harbours a disease risk to native fauna.



Ringed Brown Snake (Native)

Role: Feed on Skinks and occasionally small mammals.

Outcome:

Competes with Wopilkara for vegetation and land resources.



Black Rats and Brown Rats (introduced)

Role/description: Breed quickly and are competitive with resources. Known to have a lack of hygiene, they can live amongst human activity.

Outcome:

Maintains soil health and increases areas of vegetation.



The Long-Nosed Potoroo (Native)

Role: Grazes the undergrowth (dense shrubs under trees) and turns over leaf litter while foraging on the woodland ground.

Outcome:

Destroys vegetation important for native mammals and rodents.



The European Rabbit (introduced)

Role: Quick at breeding, rabbits graze saltbush vegetation, and are very adaptable to arid climates.

Outcome:

Controls lizard populations.



The Camel (introduced)

Role: Overgrazes land and causes erosion.

Outcome:

Reduces the chance of bushfires.