

Native Animals

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\$120

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S/A roll of 100

Native
Animals
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
19 DECEMBER 2022
CANBERRA ACT 2601

\$2.70

2185003

First day cover (s/a)



\$8.70

2185002

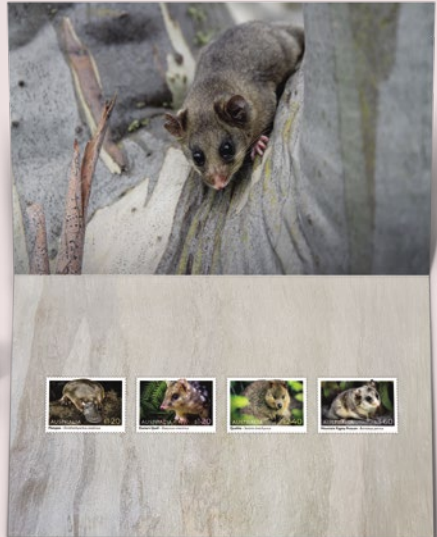
First day cover (gummed)



\$8.85

2185126

Stamp pack



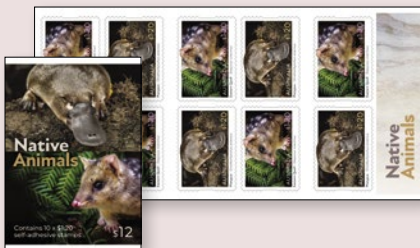
Australia is home to around two-thirds of the more than 330 marsupial species that occur worldwide. Marsupials are non-placental mammals that give birth to young at an early stage of development. The newborn crawls up the mother's abdomen and attaches itself to a teat, usually located in a pouch, where it continues to grow and develop. This stamp issue features three marsupial species and one monotreme (egg-laying mammal), all of which are endemic to Australia and listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Resembling an otter but with an unusual duck-like bill and webbed feet, the Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) baffled European scientists when they first encountered it. Found in freshwater systems in Australia's eastern states, this monotreme was categorised near threatened by the IUCN in 2014. The Platypus is one of only two Australian monotremes, the other being the Short-beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*).

Also listed as at significant risk is the Mountain Pygmy Possum (*Burrhamys parvus*), a tiny



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marsupial adapted to live exclusively in Australia's alpine zone. It is the only surviving species in the genus *Burrhamys* and Australia's only hibernating marsupial. One threat to its survival is the recent precipitous decline in number of the Bogong Moth, the possum's main food source in spring.

Listed as vulnerable and restricted to the south-west region of Western Australia, including Rottneet and Bald Islands, the Quokka (*Setonix*

brachyurus) can climb trees in search of food such as acacia leaves, although it prefers succulents from areas recently burned. The Eastern Quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*), is a medium-sized carnivorous marsupial that was once common throughout south-eastern parts of the country. Today, this endangered species occurs naturally in the wild only in Tasmania, though conservation efforts operate on the southern mainland. It prefers dry grasslands and forests where pasture grubs are plentiful.