

PREDATOR PROOF – DESIGN & MAKE

The Sanctuary is a 110 hectare purpose-built conservation and breeding facility located at Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, NSW. It plays a critical role in restoring wild populations of Greater Bilby and Plains-wanderer, which are 2 arid-dwelling species under threat in Australia, and preventing extinction.



They are both threatened by similar pressures, including introduced species. Bilbies and Plains-wanderers are both ideal prey size for feral cats and foxes, and are out-competed for resources by rabbits. Rabbits perform a similar role in ecosystems to Greater Bilbies, but they can reproduce much faster and quickly overrun an area.

One of the keys to success for the Sanctuary was to first remove these invasive threats from the site, and then just as importantly, keep them out. The Taronga Conservation & Recovery Team put a lot of work into designing a fencing system that will keep the Bilbies and Plains Wanderers safe inside, and the foxes, cats and rabbits out.

Now it is your turn to work just like the Taronga Team and prototype your own predator-proofing system for a recovery site for an Australian threatened species of your choice!

To make your design successful, you will need to research the behaviours, features and adaptations of each of the animals you are either keeping in or keeping out. Use the following page help understand your chosen species, then start prototyping, either digitally using a 3D modelling tool or getting hands on to build a model.

PREDATOR PROOF

SPECIES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

DESCRIPTION:

HABITAT:

DIET:

ADAPTATIONS THAT SUPPORT SURVIVAL:

These can be physical features and behaviours

