



# Government Gazette

OF

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

(Published by Authority at 3.30 p.m.)

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No. 76]

PERTH: TUESDAY, 2nd OCTOBER

[1973

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## PROCLAMATION

WESTERN AUSTRALIA }  
TO WIT,  
DOUGLAS KENDREW,  
Governor.  
[L.S.]

By His Excellency Major General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor in and over the State of Western Australia and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS it appears to me, the Governor, desirable that an animal emblem be adopted as an emblem of the State of Western Australia and further that such emblem ought to be the animal known as the Numbat or Banded Anteater and more fully described as *Myrmecobius fasciatus* : NOW, THEREFORE, I, the Governor, acting with the advice and consent of the Executive Council hereby declare that the animal known as the Numbat or Banded Anteater and more fully described as *Myrmecobius fasciatus* be adopted and recognised as the animal emblem of the State of Western Australia.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the said State, at Perth, this 25th day of July, 1973.

By His Excellency's Command,  
JOHN T. TONKIN,  
PREMIER.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !!!

## Animal Emblem of the State of Western Australia



### DESCRIPTION

#### NUMBAT OR BANDED ANTEATER

(*Myrmecobius fasciatus*)

The Numbat is one of Western Australia's most attractive marsupials, and although its range once extended into northern South Australia, the population today is confined mainly to the south-west of the State.

Preferred habitat is Wandoo forest where the ground is littered with fallen branches and hollow logs. Here the Numbat finds both shelter and food and can be observed during daylight hours searching for termites in the logs and sub-surface soil. Termites are the main food of the Numbat and are exposed by the animal's sharp claws and then licked up by its exceptionally long tongue.

The Numbat is very easy to recognise; its general colour is reddish brown with a generous sprinkling of white hairs, and across the rump are several prominent white bars between which the hair is dark, sometimes almost black. Through the eye there is a prominent dark stripe which is framed above and below by long white streaks. The tail is often carried erect with the hair fluffed out like a bottle brush.

An adult Numbat is generally about 16 inches long, of which slightly less than half is tail length. Usually a litter comprises four young which are born between January and April; these are carried or nursed by the mother through winter.