

# Shooting of whiptail wallabies to end

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ONE of Queensland's prettiest native animals will no longer be shot for commercial gain.

Sustainability Minister Andrew McNamara has ordered that whiptail or pretty face wallabies be removed from the commercial harvest list.

It follows a campaign led by the Wildlife Preservation Society which was supported by Kangaroo Industries Association executive officer John Kelly, who argued there was no point in continuing a commercial

shoot because so few of the creatures were taken.

Society spokesman Des Boyland said yesterday that fewer were shot each year due to declining numbers and smaller ranges.

Only 1400 were harvested by mid November, six weeks before the end of the 2007 hunting season even though the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service allowed for 25,000 a year to be shot.

"We've campaigned for three years on this," Mr Boyland said.

"Finally, logical arguments have won the day."

The whiptail has been on the

harvest list since the system was introduced in 1980.

A small animal, it lives in undulating coastal bush in northern NSW and Queensland where it faces increasing urban development.

It gained its name because its tail was turned into leather stock whips, which were often sold to tourists.

Mr Boyland said anomalies over the harvest of other species concerning issues such as skin size and body weight also had been corrected.

The largest number of whiptails shot was about 97,000 in the late 1950s, when there were no quotas.