



Monday, 7 September 2009

Plan to save native frogs launched on Threatened Species Day

The NSW Government will mark Threatened Species Day today with the launch of a five-year strategy to combat a disease threatening to wipe out many of Australia's native frog populations.

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbutt, also detailed actions being taken to prevent climate change from threatening more NSW species.

"Threatened Species Day marks the death of the last Tasmanian tiger in captivity in 1936 and as such is a sobering reminder of the new threats many animals now face from climate change and disease," Ms Tebbutt said.

"Both climate change and wildlife diseases can have huge impacts on threatened species populations, so it's crucial we understand the implications and try to manage their effects.

"Chytridiomycosis is a fungal disease which is fatal to many frog species. It is driving amphibian species to extinction internationally at an almost unprecedented rate and is already blamed for the extinction of at least one frog species in Australia.

"In NSW, almost one quarter of our frog species have been found to be infected. Those affected include the green and golden bell frog, the corroboree frog and the spotted tree frog.

"The NSW Government is supporting a range of ways to halt the spread of this disease, including distribution surveys and impact assessments, as well as on-the-ground management, monitoring and research.

"We have also had conservation programs for individual frog species in place for a number of years.

Ms Tebbutt also launched a new brochure detailing the predicted effects of climate change on a selection of species and ecosystems.

"Rising temperatures and sea levels, increasing bushfires and prolonged drought are all symptoms of climate change which will impact on biodiversity and particularly threatened species.

"For example koalas can't escape large bushfires and can be killed by even low intensity burns.

"The threatened mountain pygmy-possum may not survive if the snow cover which protects it during winter hibernation decreases.

"Winter rainfall keeps the malleefowl mound moist, necessary to incubate its eggs. Changes to rainfall patterns are likely to negatively impact on this species' ability to breed.





Carmel Tebbutt MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment | Minister for Commerce



“The brochure aims to raise awareness of what the potential impacts are, the seriousness of the consequences facing our biodiversity and what actions not only the Government but individuals as well can do will make a difference.

“We all need to work together to ensure our precious native species will be here into the future.”

The brochure will be available at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/climatechange.htm

The Chytrid Statement of Intent will be available at:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/SOIs.htm

