



**Mark Speakman**  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Heritage  
Assistant Minister for Planning

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 21 August 2015

### **\$1 MILLION GRANT TO PROTECT FROGS, FISH, FLORA AND FRESH FLOWING WATER**

Environment Minister Mark Speakman has announced a grant of \$1 million to five groups to help protect seven threatened species that rely on environments along riverbanks in the central and south-west slopes region of NSW.

The program will prioritise the protection of the Booroolong Frog, the Yellow-spotted Frog and the Tumut Grevillea plant. These species are listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

The Spotted Tree Frog, the Macquarie Perch, the Southern Pygmy Perch and the Murray Crayfish, which are all threatened species, also will benefit because the program will improve the quality of the localised environment.

Mr Speakman said the project would focus on reducing the threat of weed infestation, erosion and the prevalence Amphibian Chytrid Fungus, which attacks the skin of frogs and makes it difficult for them to breathe.

“About 170 kilometres of stream on private land in agriculture settings at 11 different sites will be managed and improved as part of this project,” Mr Speakman said.

“It is critical for conservation programs such as this one to be implemented if the state’s threatened species are to be protected.”

Central Tablelands Local Land Services will receive a total of \$390,000 and lead the project. South East Local Land Services will receive \$125,000, Riverina Local Land Services will receive \$255,000 and Murray Local Land Services will receive \$200,000.

All four land services will use the funding to improve and protect critical riparian habitat, monitor the targeted species and engage with their respective communities about the program.

The Office of Environment and Heritage also will receive a total of \$30,000 to provide expert advice, monitor the target species and help with community engagement. The Department of Primary Industries will have a similar role. The Taronga Conservation Society also will run a Yellow Spotted Bell Frog captive breeding program.

The grant is part of the Saving Our Species Partnership Grants program, which is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.

This is in addition to the Office of Environment and Heritage's flagship \$100 million for the Saving Our Species program over the next five years.

The grants program will help the Saving our Species Program achieve its objective of maximising the number of threatened species that can be secured in the wild in NSW for 100 years.

For more information visit:

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/about.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/about.htm)