

NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

Nomination Priorities

The NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee (NSW TSSC) assesses the eligibility of species and ecological communities that are known to occur in NSW, for listing as threatened species or ecological communities in the Schedules of the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act, 2016* (BC Act). The term "threatened" includes the categories of Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable. The NSW TSSC also identifies species that are extinct or extinct in the wild.

Under the BC Act, the NSW TSSC must initially assess a species' risk of extinction in Australia. If a species is not threatened at the national scale then the NSW TSSC can assess the extinction risk of the species in NSW.

The NSW Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Commonwealth Government and other State and Territory jurisdictions to implement a Common Assessment Method (CAM) of species using IUCN criteria.

Under the CAM MOU, the NSW TSSC will undertake assessments for species that are endemic to NSW.

Under the CAM MOU the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee (CW TSSC) is predominantly responsible for listing and assessing species that occur in one or more State or Territory jurisdictions in Australia.

The NSW TSSC sets priorities for its consideration of nominations. The current nomination priorities include:

- species endemic to NSW
- degree of threat
- immediacy of threat
- taxonomic distinctiveness
- such other matters as the NSW TSSC considers relevant

With regard to the fifth point above, the NSW TSSC also considers the following criteria to be relevant in determining priorities:

- revision of listed NSW endemic endangered species and NSW endemic ecological communities likely to meet the criteria for critically endangered
- assessment of unlisted NSW endemic species and NSW endemic ecological communities likely to meet the criteria for critically endangered
- NSW endemic species that play a key role in ecosystem function and which are vulnerable to a range of threats including clearing, fragmentation and climate change

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- threatening processes which would benefit from a co-ordinated management approach and for which there are currently no programs or regulations in place to abate the impacts of the process
- CAM-compliant national assessments prepared by other jurisdictions for species and ecological communities that occur in NSW
Species that are not endemic to NSW and are not nationally threatened but may be critically endangered in NSW

The NSW TSSC will continue to receive and assess any nominations from the public and other sources. However, in assessing the nominations on-hand the NSW TSSC may give priority to those nominations that fall within the above priorities.

Dr Marco Duretto
Chairperson
NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee