

# Threatened Species Conservation

## Threatened species in NSW

Australia has experienced a great loss of biodiversity since European colonisation in 1788. Some 125 plant and animal species or subspecies are known to have become extinct – including seven per cent of Australia's known mammal species. This gives Australia the worst mammal extinction rate out of the world's seven continents in the last 200 years.

In New South Wales, threatened species are listed as either presumed extinct, endangered or vulnerable. These include:

- over 40 animal species and over 40 plant species presumed extinct,
- over 60 animal species and over 300 plant species considered endangered,
- over 170 animal species and over 210 plant species considered vulnerable.



Brolga

John Turhill

- endangered ecological communities
- vulnerable species
- vulnerable ecological communities.

## How does this affect landholders?

Clearing of native vegetation, including selective harvesting of trees and disturbance to native grasslands, has the potential to impact on threatened species and their habitat. The level of impact depends on the extent and intensity of the clearing activity, the location of the activity within the landscape (e.g. near a water course, a wetland or old growth forest etc.) and the sensitivity and response of the threatened species to disturbance.

When carrying out any clearing activity landowners should fully consider possible likely impacts on threatened species or their habitats.

Where unsure, landholders should contact the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) or the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) for advice. Further information regarding threatened species and how to find out more about them is provided below.

## Identification of threatened species

Over 750 plant and animal species in NSW have been listed as threatened. The lists of threatened species can be viewed on the DEC website. Identification of these threatened species in the landscape can be difficult and often requires specialised botanical or ecological skills. For example, many threatened animals are secretive and only emerge at night. The following are ways to help investigate whether threatened species occur on your property.

## Listing of threatened species

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) protects all threatened plants and animals native to NSW (with the exception of fish and marine plants which are covered by the threatened species provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*). It provides for the identification, conservation and recovery of threatened species and their populations and communities. It also aims to reduce the threats faced by those species.

The Act contains lists of threatened species, which are divided into several categories:

- species presumed extinct
- endangered species
- endangered populations



## Identification of threatened species - helpful information

### Species Records

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

**Search the Atlas of NSW Wildlife**

This atlas contains recorded sightings of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and endangered invertebrates in New South Wales. It does not contain records of fish. Use the search form to map sightings of plants or animals in a particular area. [Find out more.](#)

Not all the information associated with the individual records is available on this site. Detailed information about individual sightings (terms and conditions apply) [Data Link](#) for more information.

**1. Plants or animals?**      **2. How many species?**

Animals?       All species?

Plants?       Threatened species?

Invertebrates?       (Access if species only?)

Just one species? Type common or scientific name:

You can make a search of threatened species records for your locality through the NPWS Wildlife Atlas Records Database which can be accessed on the DEC website. This atlas contains recorded sightings of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and endangered invertebrates in New South Wales. Not all the information associated with the individual records is available on the website, however you can apply to the DEC for more detailed information about individual sightings (terms and conditions apply). This information will give you a guide as to what threatened animals and plants have been recorded in the locality and may be expected to occur on your property, if suitable habitat exists. It should be noted, however, that this is only an indicative list of what has been surveyed and recorded and is not a comprehensive record of what threatened species may actually occur.

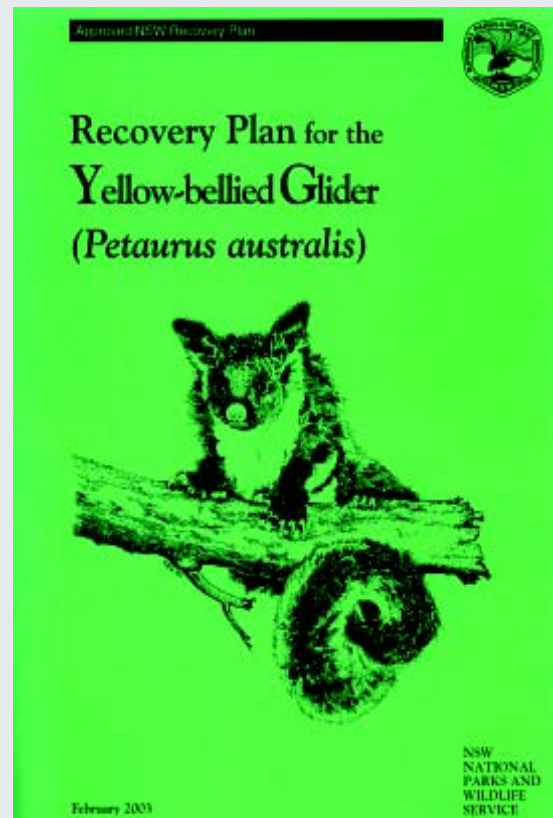
### Species Profiles

You can get more details of a particular species by checking the threatened species profiles found on the DEC website. Over 100 threatened species profiles can be investigated, showing you what the species looks like as well as information on species distribution, habitat, ecology and threats. The profiles also explain what steps are being taken to help the recovery of the species.



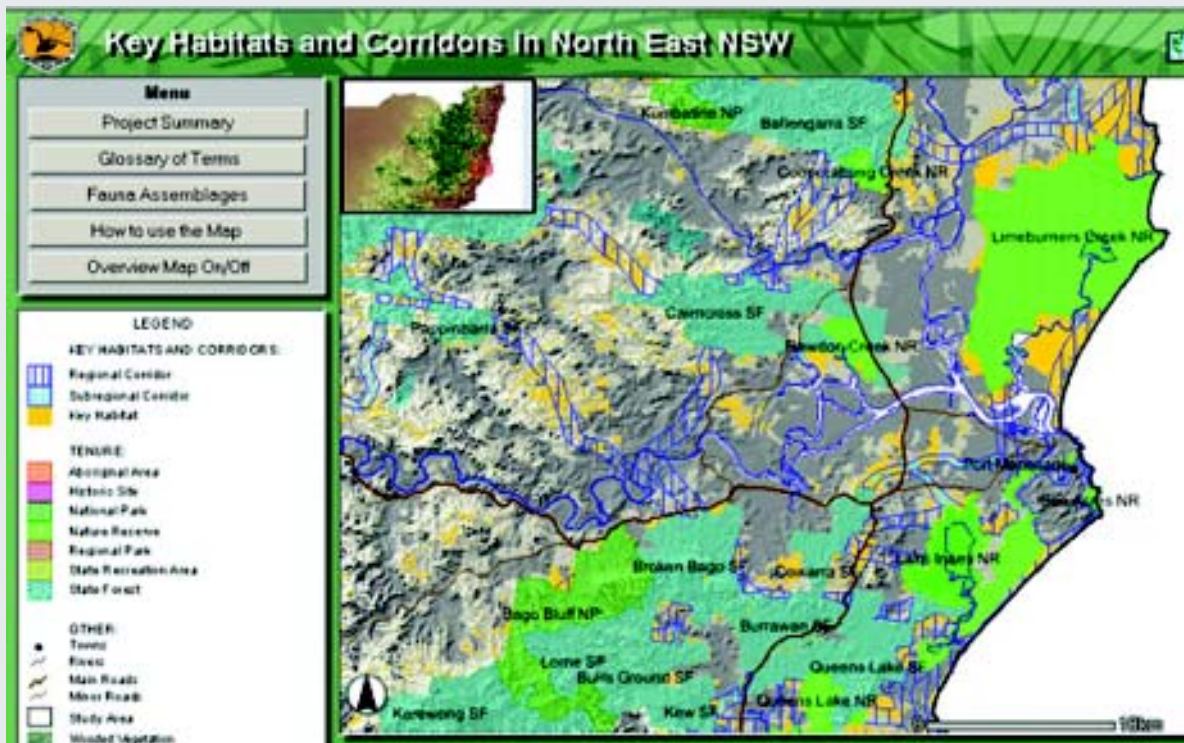
### Species Recovery Plans

A number of Recovery Plans for Threatened Species have been approved. These plans provide information on recovery actions for individual species. Recovery Plans may be viewed on the DEC website.



## Key Habitats and Corridors

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has mapped at a regional scale Key Habitats and Corridors in northern NSW to provide a framework of key fauna habitats and linking habitat corridors. Key habitat and corridor maps and the data used in this project are available through the CANRI website at [www.canri.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canri.nsw.gov.au). This website allows the user to interrogate the Key Habitats and Corridors mapping and access other information such as the project summary and key fauna species profiles. Refer also to Advisory Series Note 15 - Wildlife Corridors.



Example of the CANRI website information

## Species Booklets

A number of helpful booklets on threatened fauna and flora species have been provided to various organisations including government agencies, local councils, public schools and landcare groups. A limited number are available for purchase from any DEC Office. These booklets provide a description of all threatened fauna and flora species in the upper and lower north east regions of NSW as well as the New England Tablelands and North-west Slopes together with a picture of the species and details on distribution, habitat, threats and conservation actions. Contact the DEC for further information.



## Other Information

If you do not have access to the web, you can contact the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), the DEC or a specialist fauna or flora consultant who can provide advice on threatened species in your locality.

## Useful Websites

Threatened Species Network  
[www.wwf.org.au/tsn](http://www.wwf.org.au/tsn)  
Australian National Botanical Gardens  
[www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)  
Environment Australia  
[www.ea.gov.au](http://www.ea.gov.au)  
Greening Australia  
[www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)  
Birds Australia  
[www.birdsaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au)  
Community Access to Natural Resource Information  
[www.canri.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canri.nsw.gov.au)

## *What can you do?*

The conservation and recovery of threatened species relies on a cooperative approach with all landowners and across all land tenures and landscapes. A number of ways this can be achieved are detailed below.

### *Education and participation*

- Find out more about threatened species on your property or in your locality by visiting the websites listed above or by undertaking a search of your locality on the DEC website [Wildlife Atlas Records Database](#).
- Join local Landcare or other land management groups and become involved in local land improvement programs.
- Find out more about habitat management on your land through programs such as Land for Wildlife, Wildlife Refuges or other conservation incentive mechanisms such as a Voluntary Conservation Agreement. Contact the DIPNR or DEC for further information.

### *Protection of habitat*

- Exclude stock (or reduce stocking numbers) from areas of remnant native vegetation. This will protect and enhance understorey species, allow for natural regeneration and reduce soil compaction.
- Protect native vegetation along gullies, watercourses, ridges and other steep lands.
- Promote regeneration or revegetate areas with locally occurring native species to enhance and provide links between remnant native vegetation.
- Avoid removing older and dead standing trees, fallen timber and logs and ground cover such as rocks as they provide important habitat for threatened species.
- Help in the control of feral animals and

management of invasive weeds and control domestic pets.

- Seek advice when considering “burning off” to minimise impacts on native plants and animals.

### *Applying buffers to sensitive habitats*

- Applying a vegetated buffer zone to sensitive vegetation types and threatened species habitat areas (rock outcrops, hollow-bearing trees, nest trees, feed trees etc.) is an important management action in helping to ensure the long-term survival and recovery of threatened species.
- Buffers may range from riparian strips of 20m either side of streams and gullies to larger buffers of several hundred metres or more surrounding key habitat features such as nest trees or specific records of sensitive species. Contact the DIPNR or the DEC for further information.



John Turbill

The Black-necked Stork is listed as “Endangered” under the TSC Act.

### *Further Information*

Environment Protection and Regulation Division  
 North East Branch  
 Department of Environment and Conservation  
 24 Moonee Street  
 COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450  
 Phone: 6651 5946  
 DEC website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

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