

# Threatened Species

## Recovery Plans

### What are 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
- endangered ecological communities
- vulnerable species
- vulnerable ecological communities.

For more information on threatened species refer to Advisory Series Note Number 13.

Under the TSC Act a Recovery Plan is required for all threatened species.

### What does 'recovery' mean?

Recovery of a threatened species, population or ecological community occurs when the decline is arrested or reversed, and threats to survival are reduced or eliminated, so that long-term survival of the species in nature can be assured.

### What is a Recovery Plan?

There are three stages to the completion of a Recovery Plan.

- Research and plan preparation
- Draft Public Exhibition of Plan
- Plan approval by the Minister for the Environment.

A Recovery Plan sets out what needs to be done to ensure the survival of a native species of animal or plant that is under the threat of extinction. A threat may take the form of being preyed upon by feral predators such as foxes, damage, removal or fragmentation of habitat, invasion by weed species, altered fire regimes or poisoning by pollution or pesticides.

Recovery Plans identify the biological and ecological needs of a species by looking at its habitat requirements, distribution and threats. Plans aim to assess the threatening processes acting on the plant or animal which are contributing to its decline and provide management actions to lessen these processes. These may include pest control (including feral animals and/or weed control), habitat restoration and enhancement, fencing and site protection and management and monitoring.

A Recovery Plan must consider:

- any significant adverse social and economic consequences; and
- ways in which the public can cooperate in the conservation of a threatened species, population or ecological community.

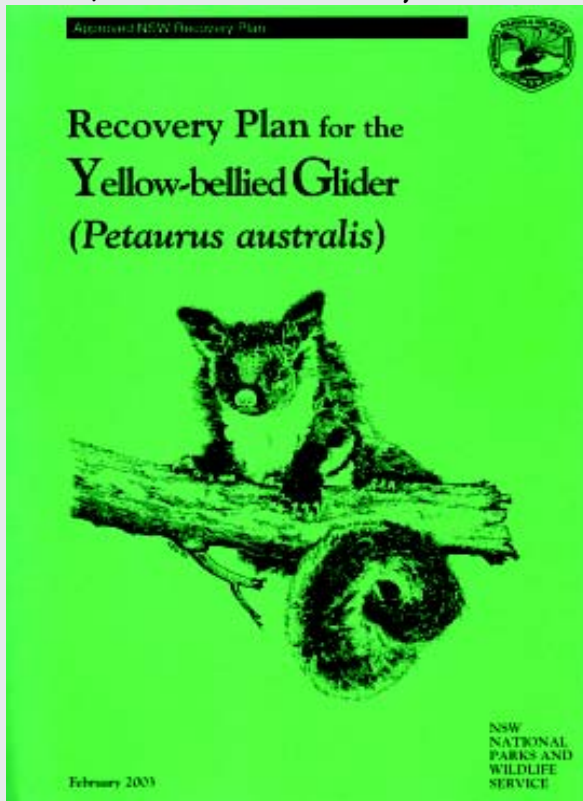
Recovery Plans are approved by the Minister for the Environment after full public exhibition and consideration of public submissions.

### How is a plan put into action?

Once a Recovery Plan is approved, public authorities identified in the plan must implement any actions included in the plan. Additionally, public authorities must not make decisions inconsistent with the provisions of a Recovery Plan. Recovery Plans must also be taken into consideration by councils and public authorities when providing approvals for developments and other activities.

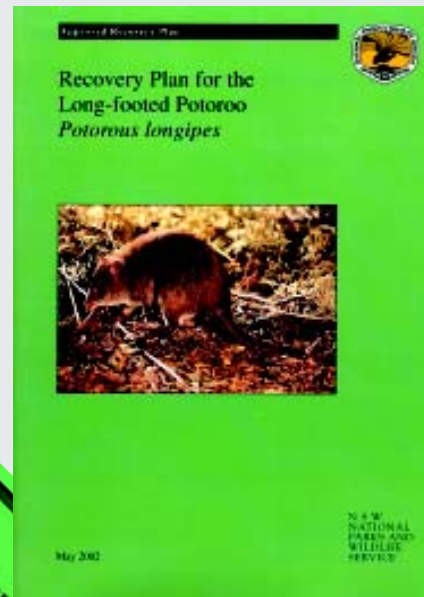


## Examples of Recovery Plans



## What you can do

The support of community groups and landowners is vital for the successful recovery of threatened species. Landowners are encouraged to become involved in the recovery of threatened species through commenting on draft Recovery Plans, and in particular helping in the implementation of Recovery Plan actions on private lands. Recovery Plans are available on the DEC website.



## References and Further Reading

- See the DEC website for approved/draft Recovery Plans and other threatened species information.  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)
- Community Access to Natural Resource Information: [www.canri.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canri.nsw.gov.au)

## Further Information

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