

Let's find out about NSW threatened animals

A resource for primary students, teachers and parents

Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and
Water acknowledges the
Traditional Custodians of the
lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders
past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain
images, or names of deceased
persons in photographs or
historical content.

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Introduction

More than 320 animal species are listed as threatened in New South Wales (NSW). Depending on how threatened it is, an animal may be listed as:

- vulnerable
- endangered
- critically endangered
- presumed extinct.

A species is presumed extinct if it has not been found in the wild for some time.

An animal is considered threatened if:

- the number of animals across the whole population is low
- the animals are found only in a small area, so the whole population could be quickly affected by harmful events such as fire, flood or disease
- there are too few adults in the population to have enough babies to maintain a population.

About this resource

In this resource, we describe 28 animals that are threatened in NSW. They represent a range of native species that live in different places with diverse ecosystems across New South Wales. Some rely on very specific habitat features in the environment to eat, breed and survive.

This resource is supported by a series of drawings by nature artist Tallulah Cunningham. You can download these drawings and use them as colouring pages.

Section 1 provides some ideas for activities and questions associated with the threatened animals.

Section 2 tells you a little about each animal and has a link to more information on the Environment and Heritage website, where you will also find maps and photos of the species.

There is also a glossary to explain terms and ecosystems.

This project was developed as part of the NSW Government's Saving our Species program. By taking a more strategic approach to management, working together and committing substantial investment in threatened species conservation, Saving our Species aims to 'maximise the number of threatened species that are secured in the wild in New South Wales for 100 years'.

To find out more about threatened species, the Saving our Species program and what actions are underway, go to our [Threatened species page](#).

Section 1: Suggested activities

Included in this resource are drawings of the heads and faces of 28 different types of animals. They all live in different places across New South Wales, in different ecosystems and rely on different habitat features, and they are all listed as threatened under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

You are free to use the images as you wish and are welcome to make as many copies of the drawings as you need.

Exploring colour and camouflage

Look at pictures of the animals online and pictures of the ecosystems they live in.

Think about where they live, what they eat and what might eat them.

Colour the animal faces and explain why you chose the colours you did.

Exploring needs, threats and ways to save threatened animals

Using the information in Section 2, think about what the threatened animals need to survive and what is threatening them.

Look at the information about where the animals can be found in New South Wales.

Look at the maps in the linked species profiles showing where each species is known or predicted to be found. It looks like many of the animals can be found across large areas of New South Wales, so how could they be threatened?

Explore what the threatened animals eat and where they find shelter. They may need very large areas to hunt for prey, such as the eastern bentwing-bat or the powerful owl.

They may need specific places to nest. For example, the powerful owl, the superb parrot, the pale-headed snake, the glossy black-cockatoo and the squirrel glider all need trees with hollows. Some may live in grasslands or under rocks that are highly disturbed by grazing animals.

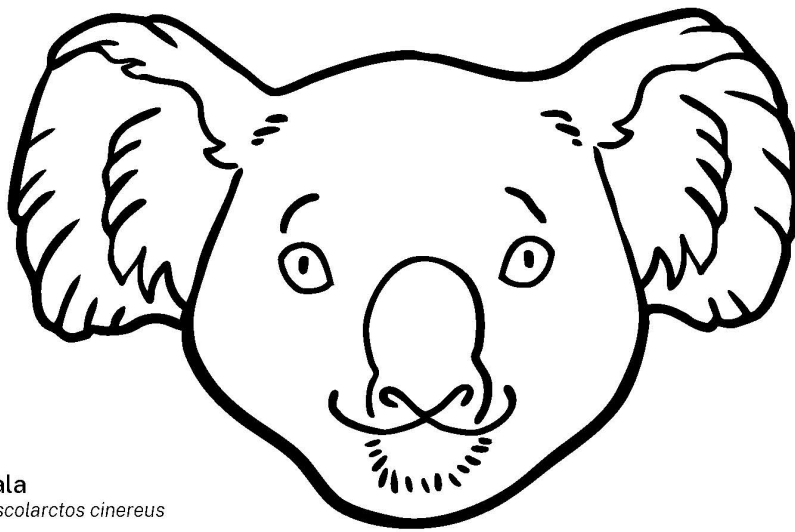
What is it that may cause animals like these that once lived across large areas of New South Wales to be threatened?

People need timber to build, we need to stay warm, and we need to have farms producing food so we can all eat well. What actions might we take to ensure people can continue to live well and our native animals survive?

Guess the species: who am I?

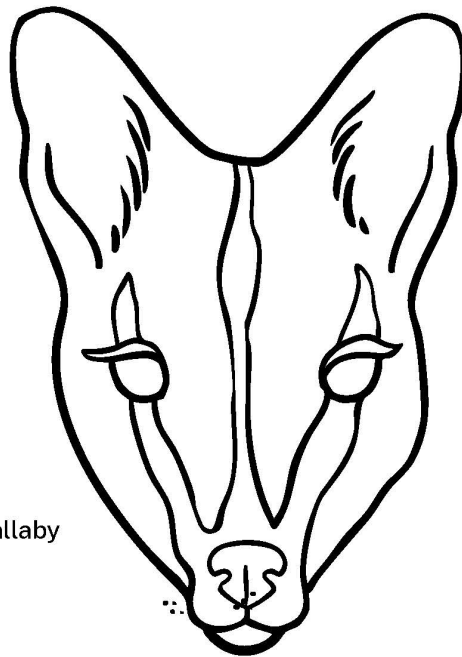
This is a guessing game for a group of players.

1. Select several species to focus on. They may be ones found near where you live or live in ecosystems you are studying.
2. The players will need to learn more about the selected animals before playing the game.
3. Download the drawings (colouring pages) for the animals you have selected. Print out an animal face for each person playing the game. You may like to mix up the numbers of each animal.
4. You might like to create a simple reference chart using the information from section 2 to help the players.
5. Attach the animal faces to paper strips that can be joined with staples or tape to sit on the player's heads.
6. The game organiser places an animal face headband on each player's head from behind. Now everyone knows the identity of the players animal – except the player.
7. To find out the animal face on their headband, each player takes turns asking questions about their animal. For example:
 - a. Do I live on the NSW coast?
 - b. Am I green?
 - c. Do I use tree hollows?
 - d. Do I fly?
8. To win the game, a player must be the first to guess the identity of their animal.



Koala
Phascolarctos cinereus
Design: Tallulah Cunningham

Saving Our Species





Brush-tailed rock-wallaby
Petrogale penicillata
Design: Tallulah Cunningham



Saving Our Species





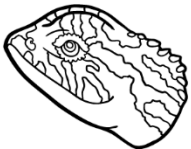

Examples of animal faces, available to download



Section 2: Species information


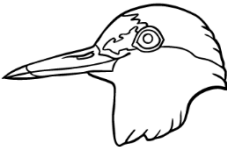
Animal	Common name, scientific name, information and map link	What type of animal is it?	What part of NSW do they live in?	What ecosystems do they live in? Look in the glossary for more information	What do they need to survive?	What is threatening their survival?
 <p>Barrier Range dragon colouring page (PDF 103KB)</p>	Barrier Range dragon <i>Ctenophorus mirrityana</i>	Reptile	North-west NSW	Arid shrubland Freshwater wetlands Grasslands Marine Saline wetlands Shoreline	Found in the higher rocky areas in flat, treeless stony desert. Seeks shelter in narrow crevices in rocks and perches on prominent rocks to catch the sunlight. Feeds on small insects.	May be hunted by cats and foxes. Goats (especially), rabbits, cows and sheep eat and disturb the vegetation and rocks that make up the dragon's habitat.
 <p>Beach stone-curlew colouring page (PDF 88KB)</p>	Beach stone-curlew <i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	Bird	Coastal NSW	Freshwater wetlands Grasslands Marine Saline wetlands Shoreline	Nests on the ground behind beaches and coastal rivers. Eats crabs and other animals that live in the sand and mud.	Eggs and chicks eaten by foxes, cats, dogs, gulls and ravens. People and vehicles on beaches can crush or trample their nests.

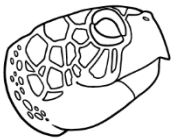

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 Brush-tailed rock-wallaby colouring page (PDF 94KB)	Brush-tailed rock-wallaby <i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Marsupial	Coast and tablelands of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetlands Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Lives on rocky ledges and cliffs. Eats grass, shrubs and trees that grow near the cliffs.	Hunted by foxes, cats and wild dogs. Weeds can replace the native plants they use for food. Goats and pigs eat the same food and can leave them with little to eat.
 Large bent-winged bat colouring page (PDF 114KB)	Large bent-winged bat <i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Bat	Coast, tablelands and western slopes of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Saline wetland Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Hunts above the tree tops catching moths and other flying insects. Caves are the primary roosting habitat. Can also use derelict mines, stormwater tunnels, buildings and other built structures.	Disturbance of caves by people. Blocking of cave entrances for human safety or by weeds like blackberries. Clearing of trees where the bats hunt for food.



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 <p>Eastern osprey colouring page (PDF 92KB)</p>	Eastern osprey <u><i>Pandion cristatus</i></u>	Bird	Coastal NSW, can travel to inland wetlands	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Heathland Marine Rainforest Saline wetland Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Feeds mainly on medium-sized live fish. Can use the same nest year after year. Nests are made from sticks and are usually placed high on a cliff or in a dead tree. Can build nests on artificial structures such as radio towers.	Young birds can get tangled in fishing nets or seaweed and drown. Removal of coastal trees in which they build their nests. The fish they eat may be contaminated by pesticides or contain lost fishing tackle.
 <p>Glossy black-cockatoo colouring page (PDF 101KB)</p>	Glossy black-cockatoo <u><i>Calyptrorhynchus lathami lathami</i></u>	Bird	Eastern and central NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Feeds on the seeds of very specific species of <i>Casuarina</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> trees, also known as she-oaks. Builds nests in large hollows in eucalypt trees that can be hundreds of years old.	Clearing of the <i>Casuarina</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> trees on which they feed. Clearing of old trees with hollows. Hollows used by increasing numbers of other native and non-native species. Illegal bird smuggling and egg collecting.



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 <p>Monaro grassland earless dragon colouring page (PDF 101KB)</p>	<p>Monaro grassland earless dragon <i>Tympanocryptis osbornei</i></p>	Reptile	South-east tablelands of NSW	Grassland	<p>Feeds on small insects, including ants and spiders.</p> <p>Uses grass clumps, surface rocks, spider and insect holes for shelter.</p>	<p>Clearing of their habitat to plant pasture or other crops.</p> <p>Removal of rocks in their grassland habitat.</p>
 <p>Green and golden bell frog colouring page (PDF 102KB)</p>	<p>Green and golden bell frog <i>Litoria aurea</i></p>	Amphibian	Coast and southern tablelands of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Saline wetland Wet forest	<p>Tadpoles feed on algae and other plants, adult frogs eat mainly insects, but also other frogs.</p> <p>Lives in marshes, dams and stream-sides, particularly those containing rushes.</p> <p>Can live in very disturbed places such as roadside drainage swales (low land) or constructed dams.</p>	<p>Changes to streams and other water bodies by building dams, weirs and diversion channels.</p> <p>A fungus that affects the skin of the frog.</p> <p>Hunted by foxes and cats.</p> <p>Poisons used to control insects and weeds.</p>



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 <p>Grey-headed flying-fox colouring page (PDF 101KB)</p>	Grey-headed flying-fox <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Bat	Coast, tablelands and western slopes of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Saline wetland Wet forest	Feeds on the nectar and pollen of forest trees and shrubs and the fruits of rainforest trees and vines. Roosting camps are commonly found in low areas, close to water, with trees that are close together.	Clearing of roost camp sites. Disturbance of roosting camps especially when there are pregnant females and juvenile flying-foxes present. Clearing of trees and shrubs that provide the flying-foxes with nectar, pollen and fruit. Extreme heat events that cause the flying-foxes to over heat.
 <p>Hooded plover colouring page (PDF 85KB)</p>	Hooded plover <i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>	Bird	Southern coast of NSW	Grassland Marine Shoreline	Feeds on worms, molluscs, crustaceans, insects, water plants and seeds. Lives on broad, flat ocean beaches with beachcast seaweed and backed by sparsely vegetated sand dunes for shelter and nesting.	Eggs and chicks eaten by foxes, cats, dogs, gulls and ravens. Disturbance of nests by domestic dogs. People and vehicles on beaches crush or trample nests. Inundation of nests by high tides, storms and other flooding.



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 Koala colouring page (PDF 94KB)	Koala <u><i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i></u>	Marsupial	All of NSW except the driest western areas	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Semi-arid woodland Saline wetland Wet forest	Feeds on the leaves of more than 70 eucalypt species and 30 non-eucalypt species, but in any one area will select preferred tree species. Home ranges vary in size with quality of habitat, from less than 2 hectares to several hundred hectares.	Clearing of habitat trees for agriculture and human settlement. Intense fires that scorch or burn the tree canopy. Crossing roads and being struck by vehicles. Domestic dogs are known to hunt and chase koalas. Koala disease.
 Little tern colouring page (PDF 88KB)	Little tern <u><i>Sternula albifrons</i></u>	Bird	Coastal NSW	Grassland Marine Saline wetland Shoreline	Feeds on small fish, crustaceans, insects, worms and molluscs. Nests in low dunes or on sandy beaches just above high-tide mark near estuary mouths or next to coastal lakes and islands.	Eggs and chicks eaten by foxes, cats, dogs, gulls and ravens. Disturbance of nests by domestic dogs. People and vehicles on beaches can crush or trample nests. Inundation of nests by high tides, storms and flooding.



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 <p>Loggerhead turtle colouring page (PDF 102KB)</p>	<p>Loggerhead turtle <u><i>Caretta caretta</i></u></p>	Reptile	Coastal NSW	Marine Shoreline	<p>Loggerhead turtles are ocean-dwellers, they feed in deeper water for fish, jellyfish and bottom-dwelling animals.</p> <p>Female turtles come ashore to lay eggs in a hole dug on beaches in tropical regions during the warmer months.</p>	<p>Boats colliding with turtles.</p> <p>Turtles can be caught in fishing gear or netting.</p> <p>Plastic pollution can cause suffocation, abrasion, infection or blockages in the turtle's system when swallowed.</p> <p>Disturbance to nest sites.</p>
 <p>Long-nosed potoroo colouring page (PDF 91KB)</p>	<p>Long-nosed potoroo <u><i>Potorous tridactylus</i></u> <u>Northern sub species</u> <u>Southern sub species</u></p>	Marsupial	Coast and coastal hinterlands of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Wet forest	<p>Feeds on underground fungi, tree and shrub roots, insects and other soft-bodied animals in the soil.</p> <p>Lives on the ground in coastal heaths and forests amongst dense grass-trees, ferns and low shrubs.</p>	<p>Clearing of habitat for agriculture and human settlement.</p> <p>Hunted by foxes, wild dogs and cats.</p> <p>Fires that change their habitat, especially the thick, low-level vegetation they live amongst.</p>

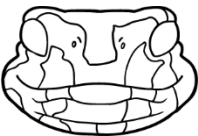

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 <p>Malleefowl colouring page (PDF 92KB)</p>	Malleefowl <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Bird	South west NSW, central and southern slopes and plains of NSW	Dry forest Semi-arid woodland	Feeds on the seeds of wattles and buds, flowers and fruits of other native shrubs. Also eats insects if available. Lives in mallee country amongst spinifex and shrubby ground plants. Lays and keeps its eggs warm in large sandy mounds.	Habitat degraded by increase in feral goats and pigs or domestic stock. Hunted by cats and foxes. Goats and pigs disturbing the egg mounds.
 <p>Mountain pygmy-possum colouring page (PDF 96KB)</p>	Mountain pygmy-possum <i>Burramys parvus</i>	Marsupial	Alpine regions of NSW	Alpine complex	Feeds on bogong moths, caterpillars, beetles, spiders and millipedes. Also eats fruits and seeds from species such as the mountain plum pine and snow beard-heath. Lives on the ground amongst boulders below mountain peaks.	Clearing and degrading of habitat for snow sports. Hunted by foxes and cats. Fire damaging food sources. Drought affecting the migration of bogong moths to alpine areas. Changing climate reducing snow and rainfall.

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 <p>Pale-headed snake colouring page (PDF 103KB)</p>	Pale-headed snake <u><i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i></u>	Reptile	Coast, tablelands and slopes of northern NSW, possible on the slopes of central and southern NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Mostly eats tree frogs although lizards and small mammals are also eaten. Shelters during the day between loose bark and tree trunks, or in hollow trunks and limbs of dead trees.	Clearing of habitat for agriculture and human settlement. Clearing of old trees with hollows. Hollows used by increasing numbers of other native and non-native species. Illegal collection of snakes from the wild.
 <p>Pied oystercatcher colouring page (PDF 97KB)</p>	Pied oystercatcher <u><i>Haematopus longirostris</i></u>	Bird	Coastal NSW	Grassland Heathland Marine Saline wetland Shoreline	Feeds on worms, crabs and small fish in the sand, mud and rocks at low tide. Nests mostly on beaches although occasionally uses grassy or marsh areas. Nests are shallow scrapes in sand above the high-tide mark.	Eggs and chicks eaten by foxes, cats, dogs, gulls and ravens. Disturbance of nests by domestic dogs. People and vehicles on beaches can crush or trample nests. Inundation of nests by high tides, storms and flooding.

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 <p>Plains-wanderer colouring page (PDF 100KB)</p>	Plains-wanderer <u><i>Pedionomus torquatus</i></u>	Bird	Western and central plains of NSW	Arid shrubland Grassland	Feeds during the day on seeds and insects. Rarely flies and lives amongst grasses and plants found in semi-arid, lowland native grasslands. Nests are a shallow hole scraped into the soil.	Clearing of habitat for agriculture. Hunted by foxes and possibly cats. Prolonged drought that affects the condition of their habitat. Very small population numbers.
 <p>Powerful owl colouring page (PDF 114KB)</p>	Powerful owl <u><i>Ninox strenua</i></u>	Bird	Coast, tablelands and slopes of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Wet forest	Feeds across large tracts of forest and woodland, from 400 to 4,000 hectares. Hunts for medium-sized native animals including possums and gliders. Nests in large tree hollows.	Clearing of nesting and roosting trees for agriculture and human settlement. Loss of large trees with hollows. Hollows used by increasing numbers of other native and non-native species. Chicks are eaten by foxes, dogs and cats.

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 <p>Regent honeyeater colouring page (PDF 101KB)</p>	Regent honeyeater <u><i>Anthochaera phrygia</i></u>	Bird	Coast, tablelands and slopes of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Wet forest	Feeds on the nectar from eucalypts that produce high volumes of nectar including mugga ironbark, yellow box, white box and swamp mahogany. Nests in horizontal branches or forks in tall mature eucalypts and she-oaks.	Clearing of feed trees for agriculture and human settlement. Competition from larger aggressive honeyeaters, particularly noisy miners, noisy friarbirds and red wattlebirds. Very small population numbers.
 <p>Rosenberg's goanna colouring page (PDF 97KB)</p>	Rosenberg's goanna <u><i>Varanus rosenbergi</i></u>	Reptile	Coast, tablelands and slopes of southern NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Wet forest	Feeds on dead animals, birds, eggs, reptiles and small mammals. Shelters in hollow logs, rock crevices and in burrows. They may dig burrows or use other burrows, such as rabbit warrens. Lays eggs in termite mounds.	Clearing of habitat for agriculture and human settlement. Clearing of termite mounds and timber that lays on the ground. Crossing or feeding on roads and being struck by vehicles. Hunted by foxes and dogs.

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 Scarlet robin colouring page (PDF 100KB)	Scarlet robin <i>Petroica boodang</i>	Bird	Coast, tablelands and slopes of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Feeds on small insects and other invertebrates. Sticks and logs on the ground provide perching spots for the robins to pounce on insects. Nests in the forks of trees and shrubs.	Clearing of nesting and roosting shrubs for agriculture and human settlement. Clearing fallen sticks and timber from the ground. Hunted by cats. Weeds invading feeding habitat.
 Sloane's froglet colouring page (PDF 102KB)	Sloane's froglet <i>Crinia sloanei</i>	Amphibian	Tablelands and slopes of NSW, now only found in southern NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassy woodland Semi-arid woodland	Feeds on insects. Adults live in grassland and woodland areas that are occasionally flooded. Eggs and tadpoles live in ponds, dams, swamps, flooded grassland, ditches and hollows.	Clearing of habitat for agriculture and human settlement. Habitat trampled by heavy stock animals. Changes to streams and other water bodies by building dams, weirs and diversion channels that affect natural flooding.

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 <p>Southern corroboree frog colouring page (PDF 102KB)</p>	Southern corroboree frog <u><i>Pseudophryne corroboree</i></u>	Amphibian	Sub-alpine regions of NSW	Alpine complex Grassland Grassy woodland	<p>Feeds mostly on small black ants and other insects.</p> <p>Summer breeding habitat is in sphagnum bogs, wet tussock grasslands and wet heath. In winter adults move into woodlands. Tadpoles overwinter in pools.</p>	<p>Damage to breeding sites by feral pigs and horses.</p> <p>A fungus that affects the skin of the frog.</p> <p>Changing climate reducing snow and rainfall.</p> <p>Very small population numbers.</p>
 <p>Spotted-tailed quoll colouring page (PDF 91KB)</p>	Spotted-tailed quoll <u><i>Dasyurus maculatus</i></u>	Marsupial	Coast, tablelands and slopes of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Heathland Saline wetland Semi-arid woodland Rainforest Wet forest	<p>Feeds on medium-sized mammals including possums, rats, birds, rabbits, reptiles and insects. Also eats dead animals and takes domestic fowl.</p> <p>Makes dens in hollow-bearing trees, fallen logs, small caves, rock outcrops and rocky cliff faces.</p>	<p>Clearing of habitat for agriculture and human settlement.</p> <p>Clearing fallen logs and timber from the ground.</p> <p>Competition for food with cats and foxes.</p> <p>Crossing or feeding on roads and being struck by vehicles.</p>

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 <p>Squirrel glider colouring page (PDF 96KB)</p>	Squirrel glider <u><i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i></u>	Marsupial	Coast, tablelands and slopes of NSW	Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassy woodland Heathland Rainforest Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Feeds on wattle gum, eucalypt sap and nectar, with insects and pollen providing protein. Lives in mature or old-growth woodlands or forests with a shrub or acacia mid-storey. Needs abundant tree hollows for refuge and nest sites.	Clearing of nesting and feed trees for agriculture and human settlement. Loss of large trees with hollows. Hollows used by increasing numbers of other native and non-native species. Crossing roads and being struck by vehicles.
 <p>Superb parrot colouring page (PDF 85KB)</p>	Superb parrot <u><i>Polytelis swainsonii</i></u>	Bird	Tablelands and slopes of NSW	Arid shrubland Dry forest Forested wetland Freshwater wetland Grassland Grassy woodland Semi-arid woodland Wet forest	Nests in the hollows of large trees, dead or alive. Feeds in trees and understorey shrubs and on the ground. Diet consists mainly of grass seeds. Also eats fruits, berries, nectar, buds, flowers, insects and agricultural grain, including grain spilt during transport.	Clearing of nesting and feed trees for agriculture and human settlement. Loss of large trees with hollows. Hollows used by increasing numbers of other native and non-native species. Feeding on grain spilt on roads and being struck by vehicles.

Glossary

Term	Definition
alpine complex	<p>Australia's alpine complex is dominated by small-leaved shrubs, herbs and tussock grasses as climatic conditions inhibit tree growth. It occupies less than 1% of Australia's land area.</p> <p><u>Go to the Alpine Heaths webpage.</u></p>
arid shrublands	<p>Arid shrublands occur in arid and semi-arid regions of western NSW, where limited, sporadic rainfall and low soil moisture are unable to support tree-dominated vegetation.</p> <p><u>Go to the Arid shrublands (Acacia sub-formation) webpage.</u></p>
critically endangered	<p>A species is eligible to be listed as a critically endangered species if, in the opinion of the scientific committee, it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in Australia in the immediate future.</p>
dry forests	<p>Dry sclerophyll (hard leaves) forests are a typically Australian vegetation type having plants such as eucalypts, wattles and banksias with hard, short leaves, which is a condition closely associated with low soil fertility rather than rainfall and soil moisture. Low fertility also makes soils undesirable for agriculture and dry forests have, therefore, remained relatively intact.</p> <p><u>Go to the Dry sclerophyll forests (shrubby sub-formation) page.</u></p>
ecosystem	<p>An assemblage of species (plants, animals and fungi) occupying a particular area.</p>
endangered	<p>A species is eligible to be listed as an endangered species if, in the opinion of the scientific committee, it is facing a</p>

	very high risk of extinction in Australia in the near future.
extinct	A species is eligible to be listed as an extinct species if, in the opinion of the scientific committee, there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species in Australia has died.
forested wetlands	<p>Forested wetlands occur throughout New South Wales but are restricted to river corridors and floodplains. These wetlands are dominated by trees and occur on fertile soils, mostly at low altitude.</p> <p>Go to the Forested wetlands page.</p>
freshwater wetlands	<p>Freshwater wetlands are ecosystems that are affected by permanent or temporary inundation. Most freshwater wetlands occur in the inland catchments of New South Wales and are dominated by shrubs, sedges and herbs.</p> <p>Go to the Freshwater wetlands page.</p>
grasslands	<p>Grasslands can be found from exposed humid coastlines to the hot, arid interior of western New South Wales. They are dominated by large tussock grasses with broad-leafed wildflowers growing in between, and an absence of woody plants. Grasslands are valued for pastoral grazing as many native grasses and herbs are eaten by sheep, cows and other stock.</p> <p>Go to the Grasslands page.</p>
grassy woodlands	<p>Grassy woodlands are the main ecosystem that makes up 'the sheep-wheat belt', running from southern Queensland to central Victoria. They have been extensively modified for agriculture. Dominated by eucalypts, typically boxes and red gums, grassy woodlands have a relatively open canopy with sparsely distributed shrubs and a</p>

diverse ground cover of tussock grasses and herbs.

[Go to the Grassy woodlands page.](#)

heathlands

Despite having a restricted distribution, heathlands are associated with some of Australia's most distinctive and inspirational coastal and mountain scenery. Shrubs and heaths dominate the vegetation, while grasses and trees are conspicuously scarce. Copious amounts of pollen and nectar attract a diverse array of nectar-feeding birds and mammals.

[Go to the Heathlands page.](#)

marine

A collective term for environments associated with the sea and ocean.

population

A population is a group of organisms of the same species occupying an area.

rainforests

Rainforests occur in areas that are reliably moist, free from fire and have moderate to highly fertile soils. They range from lush, subtropical forests of the eastern seaboard to the dry vine thickets of the semi-arid north-west slopes. They are characterised by a closed and continuous tree canopy.

[Go to the Rainforests page.](#)

saline wetlands

Saline (salt water) wetlands occur in locally restricted habitats such as lake shores and coastal mudflats. They are characterised by low-growing vegetation, with most plants barely emerging above the water line or are knee-high at most. Trees dominate only the mangrove swamps.

[Go to the Saline wetlands page.](#)

scientific committee

The NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee is established under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. It is an independent committee of scientists

	<p>appointed by the Minister for the Environment.</p> <p><u>Go to the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee webpage.</u></p>
scientific name	<p>The two-term scientific naming system is a formal system of naming species of living things by giving each a name composed of 2 parts. The first part of the name identifies the genus to which the species belongs, the second part identifies the species within the genus.</p>
semi-arid woodlands	<p>Australia's semi-arid zone occurs in the interior of the continent, where average rainfall is less than 500 millimetres per year, but more than 250 millimetres. It covers one-third of New South Wales. Although water is limited, there is enough to support trees and an understorey of drought-resistant shrubs and grasses and herbs that appear when there is enough moisture.</p> <p><u>Go to the Semi-arid woodlands (grassy sub-formation) page.</u></p>
shoreline	<p>The shoreline refers to the sand, rocks, estuaries and dunes that make up the coastal landscape directly next to the sea.</p>
threatened	<p>A species is considered threatened if there is a reduction in its population size, it has a restricted geographical distribution, or there are few mature individuals.</p>
vulnerable	<p>A species is eligible to be listed as a vulnerable species if, in the opinion of the scientific committee, it is facing a high risk of extinction in Australia in the medium-term future.</p>
wet forests	<p>The wet sclerophyll forests of New South Wales occur on moderately fertile soils in high rainfall areas. They are characterised by a tall, open tree canopy</p>

and a luxuriant understorey of soft-leaved shrubs, ferns and herbs.

Go to the Wet sclerophyll forests (grassy sub-formation) page.
