

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 Red List criteria.

Under the CAM MOU, the NSW TSSC will undertake assessments for species and ecological communities 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 and ecological communities endemic to NSW, and key threatening processes affecting these species and ecological communities
- Species and ecological communities at a high degree of threat, or immediate threat
- Such other matters as the NSW TSSC considers relevant

With regard to the third 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 particularly those likely to meet the criteria for critically endangered
- alignment between the Commonwealth and NSW listed species and ecological communities
- 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

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in NSW

- Species that are not endemic to NSW and are not nationally threatened but may be critically endangered in NSW
- Species and ecological communities that demonstrably justify listing on an emergency basis, including species that were presumed extinct and have been subsequently rediscovered
- Ecological communities and Key Threatening Processes for which listing would benefit large numbers of species that are currently threatened or may become threatened in the foreseeable future

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.

Professor Angela Moles, FRSN
NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

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