



# Australian Government–Northern Territory Government Species Information Partnership



The Australian and Northern Territory governments both maintain lists of threatened species. The Australian Government lists species that are nationally threatened, both within and across state and territory jurisdictions, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The Northern Territory Government lists Northern Territory species considered threatened under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000.

The Species Information Partnership between the two governments aims to:

- improve information available on threatened species listed by both jurisdictions and
- enhance alignment, where appropriate between the national and territory lists of threatened species.

As a result of the Species Information Partnership, the following changes have been made to the list of nationally threatened species under the EPBC Act:

- 20 endemic Northern Territory species have been listed as threatened
- six species, no longer considered nationally threatened, have been delisted and
- two species have been transferred from the vulnerable category to the endangered category.

This is one in a series of information sharing partnerships between the Australian and state and territory governments aimed at ensuring access to up-to-date threatened species information and the use of current information to achieve the best conservation outcomes for threatened species.

## Which endemic Northern Territory species have been listed/delisted and why?

Table 1 outlines the endemic Northern Territory species that have been listed, transferred or delisted under the EPBC Act as a result of the Species Information Partnership (current at August 2006).

The new listings are due to the impact of various threats, including altered fire regimes, predation by feral pests, disturbance and habitat degradation. The six delistings are a direct result of the exchange of new information between the Australian and Northern Territory governments which revealed that the species are not threatened.

More Northern Territory species may be listed, transferred or delisted in the future, as the Species Information Partnership progresses. An up-to-date list of nationally threatened species is available on the Department of the Environment and Heritage web site at: [www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/index.html)

Further information, including justification for listing or delisting under the EPBC Act, is available in the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's listing advice. Where relevant, conservation advice has also been developed which identifies priority actions of immediate benefit to the species

being listed. These documents are available on the Department's web site at: [www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/index.html)

## How does the EPBC Act protect threatened species?

The EPBC Act is the Australian Government's key piece of environmental legislation. It provides protection for matters of national environmental significance, including nationally threatened animal and plant species and ecological communities.

Listing of nationally threatened animal and plant species under the EPBC Act means that any action that is likely to have a significant impact on them will need to be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage for a decision as to whether assessment and approval is required.

It is an offence for any person to undertake an action that is likely to have a significant impact on nationally threatened animal and plant species without the approval of the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

If you are unsure whether an activity you propose to undertake will have a significant impact on nationally threatened animal or plant species, you should discuss the particular circumstances of your proposal with the Department. If doubt remains,

a referral can be made at any time before the activity commences. The Department will make a decision about whether or not approval is required under the EPBC Act within 20 business days.

EPBC Act Policy Statements regarding what constitutes a 'significant impact', are available from the Department's web site at [www.deh.gov.au/epbc](http://www.deh.gov.au/epbc) or by contacting the Department's Community Information Unit, email [ciu@deh.gov.au](mailto:ciu@deh.gov.au), or freecall 1800 803 772. Referral forms as well as a guide for submitting a referral are available from the Department's web site at [www.deh.gov.au/epbc/assessmentsapprovals/referrals/form.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/epbc/assessmentsapprovals/referrals/form.html)

### **Are these threatened species still protected under Northern Territory law?**

Yes. All threatened species are protected in the Northern Territory under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000. The Act aims to ensure that threatened species are managed in a way that maintains or increases their population sizes and the extent of their distribution within the Northern Territory. The Act has provisions for the management of populations of threatened species (including captive breeding and propagation) and for protection of habitat. Keeping and use of these species is also regulated. The listing of threatened species in the Northern Territory will be reviewed in 2006.

### **Why are there differences between the conservation status of threatened species in the Northern Territory and species list under the EPBC Act?**

The Australian Government lists nationally threatened species both within and across state and territory jurisdictions, while the Northern Territory Government focuses on species considered threatened within the Northern Territory.

While threatened species legislation is broadly similar across jurisdictions, there are differing approaches to species listings, and, therefore it is sometimes difficult to compare threatened species lists. Stage one of the Species Information Partnership focuses on aligning, where appropriate, the endemic, threatened species listed under the Northern Territory Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000 with species listed under the EPBC Act. This approach will help to ensure the best possible conservation outcomes for threatened species as information is shared and recovery

and threat abatement activities can be undertaken in partnership, where appropriate.

Where there are differences, the Northern Territory and the Australian governments are working together to ensure both jurisdictions have access to all the information available on each species and that there is greater consistency in how that information is understood and used in assessing the conservation status of the species.

### **How is the Australian Government supporting the conservation and recovery of nationally threatened species?**

Australian Government funding of specific projects, including the preparation of recovery plans, is supporting the recovery of threatened plants and animals in the Northern Territory.

Under the EPBC Act, recovery plans are required for all listed threatened species. Recovery plans set out the research and management actions necessary to stop the decline of, and support the recovery of, listed threatened species. The aim of a recovery plan is to maximise the long-term survival of a threatened species in the wild.

Multi-species recovery plans can also be prepared in accordance with the EPBC Act. These may cover a range of species occurring in the same area or a number of species with closely related requirements based on their habitats, threats or recovery actions. The Minister may also adopt a recovery plan made by a state or territory provided that it meets the requirements for adoption under the EPBC Act.

Further information on recovery plans, including which plans are in preparation, is available from the Department's web site at: [www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery/index.html)



**Table 1. Endemic Northern Territory species that have been listed, transferred or delisted under the EPBC Act**

Note: Due to revised taxonomy, some species names differ from the names included in the Northern Territory threatened species list. Where this occurs, the name, as it appears in the Northern Territory threatened species list, is provided.

	<b>Plants</b>	<b>Animals</b>
<b>Listed as Vulnerable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Acacia praetermissa</i> (a shrub)</li> <li>• <i>Hibiscus cravenii</i><sup>1</sup> (a shrub)</li> <li>• <i>Eleocharis papillosa</i> (Dwarf Desert Spike-rush)</li> <li>• <i>Hibiscus brennanii</i> (a shrub)</li> <li>• <i>Hoya australis</i> subsp. <i>oramicola</i> (a vine)</li> <li>• <i>Mitrella</i> sp. Melville Island (C.R.Dunlop 6556) NT Herbarium<sup>2</sup> (a vine)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Zyzomys maini</i> (Arnhem Rock-rat)</li> </ul>
<b>Listed as Endangered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Xylopia</i> sp. Melville Island (J.Russell-Smith 2148) NT Herbarium<sup>3</sup> (a shrub)</li> <li>• <i>Toechima</i> sp. East Alligator (J.Russell-Smith 8418) NT Herbarium<sup>4</sup> (a tree)</li> <li>• <i>Typhonium jonesii</i> (a herb)</li> <li>• <i>Typhonium mirabile</i> (a herb)</li> <li>• <i>Typhonium taylori</i> (a herb)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Croitana aestiva</i> (Desert Sand-skipper)</li> <li>• <i>Melanodryas cucullata melvillensis</i> (Hooded Robin (Tiwi Islands))</li> <li>• <i>Diplodactylus occultus</i> (Yellow-snouted Ground Gecko)</li> <li>• <i>Egernia obiri</i> (Arnhem Land Egernia)<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• <i>Mesodontrachia fitzroyana</i> (a land snail)</li> <li>• <i>Semotrachia euzyga</i> (a land snail)</li> <li>• <i>Sinumelon bednalli</i> (a land snail)</li> </ul>
<b>Listed as Critically Endangered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Acacia</i> sp. Graveside Gorge (V.J.Levitzke 806) NT Herbarium<sup>6</sup> (a shrub)</li> </ul>	
<b>Transferred from Vulnerable to Endangered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Helicteres</i> sp. Glenluckie Creek (N.Byrnes 1280) Cowie<sup>7</sup> (a shrub)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tyto novaehollandiae melvillensis</i> (Masked Owl (Tiwi Islands))</li> </ul>
<b>Delisted (removed from the list)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Boronia laxa</i> (a plant)</li> <li>• <i>Boronia xanthastrum</i> (a plant)</li> <li>• <i>Boronia rupicola</i> (a plant)</li> <li>• <i>Boronia suberosa</i> (a plant)</li> <li>• <i>Boronia verecunda</i> (a plant)</li> <li>• <i>Boronia tolerans</i><sup>8</sup> (a plant)</li> </ul>	

1 Listed as *Alyogyne cravenii* in the Northern Territory.

2 Listed as *Mitrella* D24710 Melville Is. in the Northern Territory.

3 Listed as *Xylopia* D30127 Melville Island in the Northern Territory.

4 Listed as *Toechima* D55598 East Alligator in the Northern Territory.

5 The Arnhem Land Egernia is listed as Data Deficient in the Northern Territory but is currently under consideration for listing as Endangered.

6 *Acacia* sp. Graveside Gorge (V.J.Levitzke 806)NT Herbarium will shortly be considered for listing as critically endangered in the Northern Territory.

7 Listed as *Helicteres* D2164 Glenluckie Ck in the Northern Territory.

8 *Boronia tolerans* is currently listed as vulnerable in the Northern Territory, but it is soon to be delisted by the Northern Territory Government due to new information on population size and distribution.



### Where can I get further information?

Information on species and ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act can be found on the Species Profile and Threats Database available from the Department of the Environment and Heritage web site at: [www.deh.gov.au/sprat](http://www.deh.gov.au/sprat)

Information on threatened species in the Northern Territory is available from the Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts web site at: [www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/threatened/index.html](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/threatened/index.html)

Information on Threatened Species Network Community Grants for projects to recover threatened species and ecological communities is available at: [www.wwf.org.au/tsn](http://www.wwf.org.au/tsn)

Small community-based projects may also be eligible for funding under Envirofund grants. More information on these grants is available at: [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund)

If you wish to participate in the implementation of the Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Plan, contact your local land management agency.

#### Photography credits

Images throughout by:  
Kim Brennan, Ian Cowie,  
Raelee Kerrigan and Ted Johansen.

Printed September 2006