



Australian Government and Western Australian Government Species Information Partnership



The Australian and Western Australian 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 Western Australian Government lists Western Australian species considered threatened under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950.

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 state 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:

- 10 species have been listed as threatened
- 19 species, no longer considered nationally threatened, have been delisted and
- eight species have been transferred from the extinct category to another threatened category because of recent rediscoveries.

This is one of 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 Western Australian species have been listed/delisted and why?

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

A range of Western Australian species of endemic plants (8) and animals (2) have been listed under the EPBC Act due to the impact of threats, such as land clearing, salinisation of waterways, grazing by feral animals, altered fire regimes and weed invasion. The delisting of 18 endemic plant species and the western subspecies of the Thick-billed Grasswren, is a direct result of the exchange of new information between the Australian and Western Australian governments which revealed the species are not threatened. Eight endemic plant species have been transferred from the extinct category to another threatened category as a result of recent rediscoveries.

More Western Australian 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

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

How are these threatened species protected under the EPBC Act?

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 or by contacting the Department's Community Information Unit, email 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

Are these species still protected under Western Australian law?

The species of plants and animals removed from the EPBC Act list of threatened species are not listed as threatened under the Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. These species are, however, still afforded general protection under this Act with certain licensing requirements applying to their taking.

The species that have been added to the EPBC Act list of threatened species, or moved to different categories of threat, are also listed as threatened in schedules to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. These species have special protection under the Act, including higher penalties for illegal taking when compared to other species of protected plants or animals.

While the Western Australian legislation does not prescribe threat categories, the State Minister for the Environment endorses the allocation of all threatened plants and animals to threat categories (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) using criteria developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

Proposals to take threatened plants in Western Australia may only proceed under written permission from the State Minister for the Environment, while applications relating to threatened animals require specific licences. Projects where significant impacts to threatened species are proposed may be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority for Ministerial

advice prior to the issue of authorisation to impact the species. Such authorisation, if given, may include the provision of environmental offsets to ensure that the environmental impact is minimised.

Why are there differences between the conservation status of threatened species in Western Australia and species list under the EPBC Act?

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

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 Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 with species listed under the EPBC Act. This approach will help to ensure the best 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 Western Australian 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 Western Australia.

Together with the Western Australian Government, the Australian Government also funds components of the state's leading nature conservation project, the Western Shield Programme. Launched in 1996, the Western Shield Programme is now the biggest wildlife conservation programme ever undertaken in Australia.

Under the EPBC Act, recovery plans are required for all listed threatened species. Recovery plans set out the research and management actions

Table 1: Endemic Western Australian species which have been listed, transferred or delisted under the EPBC Act

	Species
Listed as Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acacia chapmanii</i> subsp. <i>australis</i> (a shrub) • <i>Caladenia williamsiae</i> (Williams Spider Orchid)
Listed as Critically Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acacia cochlocarpa</i> subsp. <i>velutinos</i>a (Velvety Spiral Pod Wattle) • <i>Acacia unguicula</i> (a shrub) • <i>Brachyscias verecundus</i> (Ironstone Brachyscias) • <i>Calectasia cyanea</i> (Blue Tinsel Lily) • <i>Daviesia glossosema</i> (Maroon-flowered Daviesia) • <i>Muehlenbeckia horrida</i> subsp. <i>abdit</i>a (Remote Thorny Lignum) • <i>Cherax tenuimanus</i> (Hairy Marron) • <i>Galaxias truttaceus hesperius</i> (Western Trout Minnow)
Transferred from Extinct to Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eremophila vernicosa</i> Chinnock ms (Resinous Poverty Bush) • <i>Gastrolobium lehmannii</i> (Cranbrook Pea)¹ • <i>Stachystemon nematophorus</i> (Three-flowered Stachystemon)^{2, 3}
Transferred from Extinct to Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Frankenia parvula</i> (Short-leaved Frankenia) • <i>Ptilotus fasciculatus</i> (Fitzgerald's Mulla-mulla)
Transferred from Extinct to Critically Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Haloragis platycarpa</i> (Broad-fruited Haloragis) • <i>Hydatella leptogyne</i> (Few-flowered Hydatella)⁴ • <i>Gyrostemon reticulatus</i> (Net-veined Gyrostemon)
Delisted (removed from the list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acacia semicircularis</i> (Wongan Wattle) • <i>Caladenia arrecta</i> (an orchid)⁵ • <i>Chordifex chaunocoleus</i> (Heath Rush) • <i>Verticordia harveyi</i> (Autumn Featherflower) • <i>Bentleya spinescens</i> (Spiny Bentleya) • <i>Daviesia spiralis</i> (Spiral-leaved Daviesia) • <i>Kunzea pauciflora</i> (Mt Melville Kunzea) • <i>Anigozanthos humilis</i> subsp. <i>chrysanthus</i> (Golden Catspaw) • <i>Lechenaultia pulvinaris</i> (Cushion Leschenaultia) • <i>Amytornis textilis textilis</i> (Thick-billed Grasswren (western subspecies)) • <i>Corybas limpidus</i> (Crystal Helmet Orchid) • <i>Hemiandra</i> sp. <i>Watheroo</i> (S.Hancocks 4) (Colourful Snakebush) • <i>Eucalyptus rhodantha</i> var. <i>x petiolaris</i> (Stalked Rose Mallee)^{6, 7} • <i>Eremophila microtheca</i> (Heath-like Eremophila) • <i>Triodia bromoides</i> (a spinifex)⁸ • <i>Eucalyptus graniticola</i> Brooker & Hopper ms (Scarp Road Mallee)⁷ • <i>Pimelea rara</i> (Summer Pimelea) • <i>Adenanthos x cunninghamii</i> (Albany Woollybush)^{7, 9} • <i>Eucalyptus x bennettiae</i> (Bennett's Mallee)^{7, 10}

1 *Gastrolobium lehmannii* (Cranbrook Pea) was previously known and listed as extinct under the EPBC Act as *Nemcia lehmannii* (Cranbrook Pea).

2 *Stachystemon nematophorus* (Three-flowered Stachystemon) was previously known and listed as extinct under the EPBC Act as *Pseudanthus nematophorus* (Three-flowered Pseudanthus).

3 The WA Government is considering a change in the management status of the Three-flowered Stachystemon from endangered to vulnerable following recent population surveys.

4 The Few-flowered Hydatella was recently re-assessed as critically endangered at a recent meeting of the Western Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

5 *Caladenia arrecta* was previously known and listed under the EPBC Act as *Caladenia* sp. Jarrah Forest (S.D. Hopper 3990)

6 *Eucalyptus rhodantha* var. *x petiolaris* was previously known and listed under the EPBC Act as *Eucalyptus rhodantha* var. *petiolaris*.

7 This hybrid is not eligible for listing under the EPBC Act as hybrids do not meet the definition of a species under section 528 of the EPBC Act.

8 *Triodia bromoides* was previously known and listed under the EPBC Act as *Plectrachne bromoides*.

9 *Adenanthos x cunninghamii* was previously known and listed under the EPBC Act as *Adenanthos cunninghamii*.

10 *Eucalyptus x bennettiae* was previously known and listed under the EPBC Act as *Eucalyptus bennettiae*.

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

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

Information on Western Australia's threatened species and recovery programmes is available on the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation web site at: www.naturebase.net/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

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

If you wish to participate in the implementation of your region's Natural Resource Management Plan, contact your regional body:

- Avon Region – Avon Catchment Council
- Northern Agricultural Region – Northern Agricultural Catchments Council
- Rangelands Region – Rangelands NRM Co-ordinating Group
- South Coast Region – South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team
- South West Region – South West Catchments Council
- Swan Region – Swan Catchment Council.

Photography credits

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