



Animals



Habitat loss and invasive species continue to threaten native animals. Protecting our native animals will become more important as our population grows and the climate changes.

Many animals living in Australia are found nowhere else. They are closely linked to overall health and functioning of ecosystems, and the loss of an animal species may affect other species.

Native animals hold significant cultural values for Aboriginal peoples, serving as vital totems that embody connection to Country.

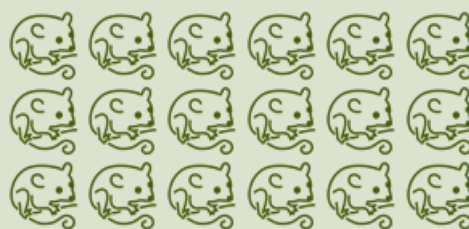
At a glance

How NSW is tracking

- The number of species listed as 'threatened' in NSW continues to increase, with 18 species added between December 2020 and June 2024, bringing the total to 343.
- Across NSW, the distribution of native land mammals is continuing to decrease.
- While native birds have been more resistant to declines than native mammals, their populations are also declining.
- The number of critically endangered native fish in NSW has increased.
- Invasive species continue to exert pressure on native plants and animals. New threats, such as red fire ants, will continue to pose significant biodiversity risks if not eradicated. They also bring substantial economic costs of managing and controlling infestations.
- After 30 years of work, invasive mammals have been successfully controlled on all NSW offshore islands, with continued monitoring and ecosystem recovery now taking place.
- Some good outcomes have been reported for certain species, such as the yellow-footed rock wallaby. Numbers have increased from 100 animals in 2003 to 299 in 2023.

Threatened species

The number of **threatened** animal species listings has **increased by 18** since 2021.



2021

2024

Future extinctions

Only **50%** of species listed as threatened are predicted to still be living in **100 years' time**.


















The big picture

The topic's indicators, other than 'invasive animal species: distribution and impact', align to the 'biosphere integrity' planetary boundary. Globally, this boundary has been crossed.






NSW status and trend indicators

These indicators consider the abundance, distribution and population of native animals in NSW.

Indicator	Environmental status	Environmental trend	Information reliability
Number of threatened species listed	 MODERATE	 Getting better Stable Getting worse	 Reasonable
Native mammals: population and distribution	 POOR	 Getting better Stable Getting worse	 Limited
Native birds: population and distribution	 MODERATE	 Getting better Stable Getting worse	 Reasonable
Native fish communities	 POOR	 Getting better Stable Getting worse	 Reasonable
Invasive animal species: distribution and impact	 POOR	 Getting better Stable Getting worse	 Reasonable

Indicator table scales

- **Environmental status:** Good, moderate, poor, unknown
- **Environmental trend:** Getting worse, stable, getting better, unknown
- **Information reliability:**  Good  Reasonable  Limited

Indicator definitions

Number of threatened species – measures the number of species listed as critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Native mammals: population and distribution – measures the populations and distribution of native mammals.

Native birds: populations and distribution – measures the populations and distribution of native birds.

Native fish communities – measures the abundance and diversity of native fish.

Invasive animal species: distribution and impact – measures the number of invasive species (introduced animals such as rabbits, foxes and carp) on land and in water.