



Marion Scrymgour

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

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NEW THREATENED SPECIES LIST REVEALED FOR NT

About 200 of the Territory's plant and animal species are now listed officially as threatened with extinction.

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today launched the draft proposed changes to the Threatened Species of the NT, which have been prepared by the Biodiversity Conservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.

Ms Scrymgour said the public had an opportunity to make comments about the proposed changes during the 30 day community consultation period, starting today.

"Accurate assessment of the conservation status of plants and animals is important for appropriate conservation management and planning in the NT," Ms Scrymgour said.

"In some cases, we know why these species are in trouble, but for many others the causes of decline are less clear, or we know very little about them.

"The list includes iconic species such as the bilby and gouldian finch, but also less well-known species, such as native land snails, insects, fish, plants and bats."

Ms Scrymgour said that the listing provided an important audit of the status of the Territory's biodiversity.

She said the threatened species status of plants and animals in the Northern Territory was last reviewed in 2002 and the status of some of these species has changed.

"In drafting the proposed changes we have considered new information from bioregional surveys, targeted research on threatened species, reports from ranger groups and the public, as well as a variety of changes since the previous list."

The proposed changes include removal of 12 species from threatened categories (mostly plants), the addition of 9 species to threatened categories (mostly birds and plants), reducing the threatened status of three species (two fish and a moth), and increasing the threatened status of two threatened mammal species.

"All comments and new proposed changes will be considered in the review, and advice will be sought from recognised experts," she said.

The results will be used to produce a new Classification of Wildlife in the Northern Territory, which will be a primary list for conservation planning in the Territory. All species listed as Vulnerable or above will gain extra protection as threatened species under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act.

The community is invited to view the proposed changes listed on the NRETA website (<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/threatened/>) and to forward comments by either email or letter.

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