



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

February 21, 2007

NT Threatened Species List Announced

The Territory's new Threatened Species List – which includes two geckos and a shark - was launched today by Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour.

The updated Northern Territory Threatened Species List follows a recent review, which included a period of public comment.

The NT Threatened Species List identifies plants and animals that are regarded as:

- Extinct in the wild;
- Critically endangered;
- Endangered;
- Vulnerable;
- Near threatened;
- Least concern; and
- Data deficient.

Ms Scrymgour said the purpose of the list was to provide a classification for NT plant and animal species so that appropriate funding, research and conservation programs were focused on areas where they were needed the most.

“Since the last review was conducted in 2002, it was proposed by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA), that many of the Territory’s plant and animal species have their status changed,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“During the month-long period of public consultation last year, public comments were received from seven organisations on 50 of the 665 different plant and animal species listed for public comment, resulting in four species having their status increased, five decreased while 15 changed to data deficient.”

A plant or animal species is data deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct or indirect assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status.

Ms Scrymgour said two goanna species, the yellow-spotted monitor (*Varanus panoptes*) and Merten’s water monitor (*Varanus mertensii*), had their proposed listing of near threatened increased to vulnerable as a result of the public consultation process.

“Both of these lizards occur in the Top End and research has shown their numbers have declined by more than 80 per cent immediately after the arrival of cane toads,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Another species that had its proposed listing increased from vulnerable to endangered as a result of public consultation was the Northern River Shark (*Glyphis sp.C*), which is found in the Adelaide, and East and South Alligator rivers.

“Public consultation resulted in four land snails having their status decreased from critically endangered to endangered.”

Ms Scrymgour applauded the efforts of those people who have made the updated list possible.

“The Threatened Species List of the NT is as comprehensive as it can possibly be and will be in place until the next review is undertaken, which will probably be at least three years from now,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“I would like to congratulate those people involved in the creation of this Threatened Species List, including the dedicated staff from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts who work incredibly hard to compile such a list, and also those people and organisations who had their say through the period of public comment.”

People can go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/threatened to view the list

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