

# Threatened Fauna of the Mary River Catchment

Take steps to protect waterway fauna



Photo courtesy of John Cann

**Mary River turtle**  
*Elusor macrurus*  
Endangered (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Occurs only in the Mary River catchment, in deep water holes and undisturbed slow flowing sections with partially submerged rocks and logs on which to bask.

**Threats:** Loss of riparian vegetation, decreased water quality, changes in water flow, erosion and siltation, disturbance of eggs.



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**Water mouse**  
*Xeromys myoides*  
Rare (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Tidal zones. Requires mangroves in which to feed and nearby reedbeds and salt marshes above high tide for burrows.

**Threats:** Coastal development, predation by domestic pets and feral animals.



Photo - Eva Ford, MRCCC

**Giant barred-frog**  
*Mixophyes iteratus*  
Endangered (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Rocky and deep, slow-moving streams with good riparian vegetation.

**Threats:** Tree clearing, fungal disease



Photo - Eva Ford, MRCCC

**Cascade treefrog**  
*Litoria pearsoniana*  
Endangered (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Found in low vegetation within 1-2 m of wet forest streams in ranges of south-east Queensland.

**Threats:** Fungal disease, loss of riparian vegetation.

Don't pollute waterways

Revegetate with local native plants

Don't release non-local fauna species in waterways

Control weeds - early is best

Waterways are sensitive to impacts by livestock

Leave near-stream vegetation intact

Barriers to flow are barriers to fish



Image courtesy of Sally Elmer

**Coxen's fig-parrot**

*Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni*  
Endangered (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Various forest types with an abundance of fig trees.

**Threats:** Tree clearing, habitat fragmentation



Photo courtesy of Kathie Atkinson

**Queensland lungfish**

*Neoceratodus forsteri*  
Vulnerable (EPBC 1999)

**Habitat:** Endemic to the Mary and Burnett river systems only. Slow flowing and still water, prefers deep pools with riparian vegetation.

**Threats:** Removal of riparian vegetation, impoundments, siltation.



Photo - Eva Ford, MRCCC

**Tusked frog**

*Adelotus brevis*  
Vulnerable (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Rainforests, dry forests near streams and ponds, farming areas where creek banks are free from grazing

**Threats:** Tree clearing, fungal diseases.



Photo courtesy of Gunther Schmida

**Honey blue-eye**

*Pseudomugil mellis*  
Vulnerable (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Found only in waterways with soft, tannin-stained acidic water, less than a metre deep, a sandy bottom, sedge edges and no flow.

**Threats:** Land clearing and coastal development have reduced suitable habitats.

**Richmond birdwing butterfly**

*Ornithoptera richmondia*  
Vulnerable (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Rainforest environments containing *Parastrotolochia* vines on which its eggs are laid.

**Threats:** Clearing of coastal rainforests where the exotic weed *Dutchman's pipe* is mistakenly used to lay eggs on. Toxins in the plant kill young caterpillars.



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Photo courtesy of Gunther Schmida

**Mary River cod**

*Maccullochella peelii mariensis*  
Endangered (EPBC 1999)

**Habitat:** Deep slow flowing pools with overhanging vegetation or rocks.

**Threats:** Removal of logs from waterways, siltation and illegal fishing.



Photo courtesy of Chris Corben

**Giant spiny crayfish**

*Euastacus hystrixosus*  
Vulnerable (IUCN 2000)

**Habitat:** Upland rainforest and wet sclerophyll streams.

**Threats:** Habitat loss, feral animal disturbances.



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**Illidge's ant-blue butterfly**

*Acrodipsas illidgei*  
Vulnerable (NCA 1994)

**Habitat:** Mostly Grey mangroves along coast between Mary and Brunswick River estuaries.

**Threats:** Mangrove loss due to coastal development.

This poster developed by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee with support from:  
For information contact MRCCC, QPWS or your local Landcare group.

NCA 1994 - Queensland Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994.  
EPBC 1999 - Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.  
IUCN 2000 - International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Red list)

Images of the Birdwing Butterfly, Water Mouse and Illidge's Ant Blue Butterfly courtesy of the Queensland Museum ©