

LIST OF BALLARAT REGION THREATENED REPTILE SPECIES

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

CORANGAMITE WATER SKINK, *Eulamprus tympanum marnieae*

The Corangamite Water Skink is a small olive-brown reptile with a lighter belly and strong black markings striped across the back, and down the side of the head and body. It has a small distribution in south-western Victoria where it is found in open grassy woodland, or pastures. These lizards inhabit rocky mounds, where they can shelter in rock crevices. This habitat suits its timid nature, as they are a species renowned for fleeing for cover at the first sight of a predator. This water skink breeds only once per year, with a litter of 1-6 young. There is little information on their feeding habits, but it is active by day and believed to hunt insects.

GRASSLAND EARLESS DRAGON, *Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*

The Grassland Earless Dragon is a small reptile (5-9 grams) with a stocky body and short, robust legs. Their defining feature is a lack of external ears, a defining trait of most lizard species. It has a very small population, hence its critically endangered status – with rare sightings in Victoria, NSW and the ACT. Its body is pale brown, with dark bands and lighter cream coloured stripes. These lizards are restricted to areas of treeless native grassland, which is quickly being overrun by industrial and residential development, causing the lizard population to be in heavy decline. In these grasslands it shelters in invertebrate holes, and cracks in the soil where it hunts the same invertebrates.

ENDANGERED

ADELAIDE SNAKE-EYED SKINK, *Morethia adelaidensis*

The Adelaide Snake-eyed Skink, contrary to its name, is also found in a small area of northern Victoria. While it is an endangered species in Victoria, its more western populations are more stable due to better habitat conditions. The Adelaide Snake-eyed Skink is a small lizard with delicate features like most of the skink family. It is olive-grey to brown in colour, with darker lines and some scattered pale flecks. It favours arid conditions, and in particular shrub lands or sparse woodlands. These are the perfect conditions for hunting insects and hiding from larger predators.

BROAD-SHELLED TURTLE, *Chelodina expansa*

The Broad-shelled Turtle is an endangered, medium sized river turtle. It inhabits the Murray/Darling river systems from Queensland to northern Victoria. This turtle has a particularly long, thick neck with a broad head, matching the proportions of its broad shell which is its namesake. It is a dark coloured turtle, with a lighter coloured underside for camouflage. It lies concealed in debris on river bottoms or among root mats in streams and waterholes, where it waits to feed on small fish and invertebrates. Crustaceans are a large part of their diet.

PINK-TAILED WORM-LIZARD, *Aprasia parapulchella*

The Pink-tailed Worm Lizard is a species of endangered lizard that more closely resembles a snake or worm. Besides key lizard features such as external ear openings, these lizards lack forelimbs and hind limbs, and their tail is approximately the same length as their body. The worm-lizard is a cryptic fossorial species, meaning it lives underground. It inhabits the foothills of the Great Dividing Range where it lives under small rocks, and deep into ant burrows. Most plant life above the habitat of the worm-lizard is native grasses, however these lizards will not live in dry or arid conditions, preferring humid and moist habitats. They mainly feed on ant species, not being fussy between adults and larvae.

STRIPED LEGLESS LIZARD, *Delma impar*

The Striped Legless Lizard, also known as the Striped Delma, is a species of Delma which lacks legs. Rather it is known as 'flap-footed', with no forelimbs and reduced hind limbs. It is found mostly in Victoria, with small populations in NSW and SA. It is pale-grey in colour with dark stripes that span the whole length of the individual, their head is generally darker than the body, with a lighter coloured underside. These lizards are distributed through grasslands both native and exotic. They shelter in grass tussocks, under rocks and in insect burrows such as spider holes and debris. They also feed on the insects and spiders that create the shelters.