



GRASSLAND EARLESS DRAGON ALLIANCE



Who is the Grassland Earless Dragon Alliance?

We are a not-for-profit conservation group committed to studying, protecting and raising awareness of critically endangered Grassland Earless Dragons. Our team includes students, researchers and conservationists from various institutions. We welcome anyone to get involved and help promote our cause! The Alliance continues to grow its social media profile and engage like-minded ecologists and interested community members.



What is a Grassland Earless Dragon?

Ever heard of a Grassland Earless Dragon? Small, unassuming, and incredibly cryptic - most people will never see one! They call natural temperate grasslands home and etch out their living scurrying between grass tussocks, munching on insects and sheltering beneath rocks and inside spider burrows.



There are four species of Grassland Earless Dragon (GED) local to South-eastern Australia. The native grasslands they call home have been cleared for housing developments and intensive land use, leaving most species critically endangered. GEDs are remarkably resilient and persist within their fragmented homes despite the many threats they face. They have very small distributions and exist on the fringes of some of Australia's largest population centres (Cooma, Bathurst, Canberra and outer Melbourne), yet remain relatively unnoticed. Our goal is to change that!



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What do we do?

The Alliance has four chief aims, many of which are intertwined and work towards a common goal. Chiefly an awareness of the species, a better understanding of their ecology and the ultimate conservation of the species and their habitat.

Community Engagement

The Alliance actively raises awareness for the four species of GED through social media, citizen science projects, and community involvement, aiming to garner support, particularly from local groups and landholders for conservation efforts. By engaging communities, we strive to foster stewardship and pride, ultimately improving habitat management and species outcomes.



Research

The Alliance has swiftly emerged as a key player in GED research, with notable publications setting benchmarks for survey methods and ongoing population monitoring techniques. Current research prioritises analysing population trends, understanding habitat dynamics, and fostering collaborations, including student participation, to deepen insights into GED ecology and habitat.





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Conservation

As GED experts, we actively contribute to recovery meetings and workshops, disseminating research findings to refine survey methods and inform population trends. With a focus on integrating community engagement and applied practical guidelines, we aim to enhance habitat protection and management among landholders via consultation and incentivisation, promoting stewardship to ensure the longevity of GED populations.



Rediscovery

The Victorian GED's recent rediscovery after an absence of 50 years has sparked hope for the survival of the Bathurst GED. The Alliance has engaged in community events and media outreach to galvanise the local community into rediscovering their local dragon! Rigorous habitat modelling and consultation of local experts have been used to refine our search efforts and after an enormous fundraising campaign we are poised to implement surveys to hopefully rediscover the Bathurst GED.

