

Bathurst's own

This important and unique lizard has not been seen since 1996!

The Bathurst grassland earless dragon (*Tympanocryptis mcartneyi*) is listed as Critically Endangered under national and state environment laws and is one of Australia's most imperilled reptiles. Potentially it could be extinct however science shows us not to give up hope. Species thought to be extinct have been rediscovered before.

The species is endemic to the Bathurst grassy plains but unfortunately most of its habitat has been lost as a result of agricultural and urban growth.

Past observations of the dragon have been right in the heart of Bathurst (prior to significant development) and in the eastern, west and southern outskirts of the township, including around Mount Panorama.

We believe there are still some areas of its native grasslands remaining in the broader region and the species might just be hanging on.



Canberra grassland earless dragon (left and middle) and Bathurst grassland earless dragon (right). Photo by Will Osborne.

Cool facts

Distinctly Bathurst - The Bathurst grassland earless dragon occurs nowhere else in Australia other than in Bathurst NSW.

Well named – The species' scientific name refers to local naturalist Ian McArtney, a local Wiradjuri man who first identified the species in 1948 in Bathurst at George Park.

Love or hate spiders? - The species has been observed sheltering in the burrows of wolf and trapdoor spiders! Little is known about this relationship. If it's rediscovered this will be important to better understand.

Healthy country indicator – Fear not! The presence of this dragon won't stop you from what you're doing. If the dragon is on your land, it's a sign the land is healthy and under the right level of management.

Read more

Scan the QR code to read more about the Bathurst grassland earless dragon.



Scan the QR code to stay up to date with photos, facts and latest research news from the Grassland Earless Dragon Alliance Facebook page or follow them on Instagram at @earless_dragon_alliance.



In partnership with Saving our Species, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and the Australian Government.



Local Land Services

Bathurst grassland earless dragon



Conservation status in NSW:
Critically endangered

Commonwealth status:
Critically endangered

