



# GRASSLAND EARLESS DRAGON ALLIANCE



## Why rediscover the Bathurst Grassland Earless Dragon?



The Bathurst GED is Australia's least known and most endangered reptile species. It is known from only 3 specimens and hasn't been seen since the mid 90's. If we cannot find the species, it risks becoming the first reptile to become extinct on the Australian mainland in modern history. Its rediscovery will potentially unlock emergency intervention funding to safeguard its habitat.

With less than 1% of Natural Temperate Grasslands remaining in south-eastern Australia, prioritizing the Bathurst GED could bolster protection for this vital ecosystem. Plans for a captive breeding program, inspired by the success with the Victorian GED are underway, with Taronga Zoo and Symbio Wildlife Park showing interest in leading the effort.

## How can you help?

Our research has identified high priority areas where Bathurst dragons could still persist. We are contacting you because your land has been identified as having good habitat with a potential likelihood for a population of dragons!

GEDs are extraordinarily difficult to find. They are a cryptic species prone to persisting in very low numbers and can go for exceedingly long periods without being detected. We search for them by deploying artificial habitat that mimics their natural refuge sites. For this project we are deploying roof tiles in a 5 x 5m array. The tiles replicate rocks which they seek out as refuge from predators and serve as a good place to warm up without being exposed.





# GRASSLAND EARLESS DRAGON ALLIANCE



With your permission we are hoping to deploy one or two tile grids on your property in suitable looking habitat. Such habitat is grassland, characterised by well-spaced tussocks that isn't too dense or bare. Presence of shallow lightly embedded rocks is also good but not essential. We would like to check tiles weekly over the Autumn period. The more surveys we can conduct the greater our chances of success!



## What happens if we find dragons?

Discovering dragons on your property indicates that your land is healthy and well-managed. You don't need to do anything differently! It's business as usual for farming operations. Dragons thrive in well managed native grasslands alongside sustainable livestock grazing.

## Benefits to you!

Enhancing biodiversity management in agriculture can lead to better access to emerging sustainability markets. The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust provides support for landholders interested in biodiversity conservation. Discovering endangered species like dragons can significantly increase land value, and grants for native vegetation protection are available through organisations like NSW Local Land Services and Landcare groups.

Bathurst is the unique home of the Bathurst GED; it is found nowhere else in the world! With the right exposure the Bathurst GED could become an emblematic icon of the region representing resilience, connection to country and a symbol of the grasslands which have featured so heavily in the agricultural history of the area. A true comeback story, a rediscovery would mean fighting back against the tide of extinction. By granting access for GED surveys, you will be playing an important part in the potential rediscovery of Bathurst's own dragon and helping to safeguard its survival for future generations.



For further information please contact the Alliance at [gedalliance@outlook.com](mailto:gedalliance@outlook.com)