

# Threatened Ecological Communities: New South Wales



## Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens:

Characterized by wet, peaty soils at high altitudes, these ecosystems boast waterlogged conditions nurtured by the resilient Sphagnum moss. Amidst these wetlands, one might spot buttercups, sundews, and snow daisies. The moist habitat supports unique wildlife such as the endangered corroboree frog, alpine tree frog, and mountain pygmy possum.

## Lowland Rainforests of Subtropical Australia:

Lush, dense canopies dominate these rainforests, providing a cool and shaded habitat. Towering trees such as the red cedar and booyong intermingle with understorey plants like Bangalow palm and golden sassafras. The melodious calls of the rufous scrub-bird and the rustling of creatures like the Hastings River mouse and spotted-tailed quoll punctuate the forest soundscape.

## Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands:

Rolling expanses of open grassy plains, occasionally interspersed with small shrubs, typify this habitat. A variety of grasses like wallaby grass and kangaroo grass sway with the wind, providing shelter for creatures such as the grassland earless dragon and striped legless lizard.

## Natural Grasslands on Basalt and Fine-textured Alluvial Plains:

These vast plains, formed from volcanic basalt and sediment deposits, are carpeted with a mix of grasses and occasional wildflowers. The region supports reptiles such as *Anomalopus mackayi* (Five-clawed Wormskink), *Tympanocryptis pinguicolla* (Grassland Earless Dragon) and numerous other lizards and snakes.



### **Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands of the Temperate Lowland Plains:**

Fluctuating water levels create a dynamic environment where aquatic plants like water milfoil and reeds flourish. The waters and surrounding vegetation host species such as the Australasian bittern and growling grass frog.

### **Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets of Brigalow Belt & Nandewar Bioregions:**

These thickets present a dense weave of vines and shrubs amidst taller brigalow trees. The dense vegetation shelters the black-breasted button-quail and sugar gliders, providing them with food and nesting sites.

### **Upland Basalt Eucalypt Forests of the Sydney Basin Bioregion:**

Towering eucalypt trees, growing on rich basalt soils, create a lofty canopy. Residents of this vertical habitat include the powerful owl, grey-headed flying fox, and yellow-bellied gliders.



### **Weeping Myall Woodlands:**

This arid woodland is characterized by the drooping branches of the weeping myall tree. Beneath its shade, species like the chestnut quail-thrush and variegated fairy-wren can be found flitting about.

### **White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland:**

Diverse tree species create a patchwork canopy over native tussock grasses and wildflowers. The habitat vibrates with the calls of the regent honeyeater, swift parrot, and sightings of the vibrant diamond firetail.

### **The Community of Native Species Dependent on Natural Discharge of Groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin:**

Emerging springs create lush oases amidst drier surroundings. Around these water sources, aquatic plants thrive, and species such as the artesian spring snail and various endemic fishes find refuge.

