Protecting Our Threatened Species

Parks and Wildlife Minister Karl Hampton today invited Territorians to comment on the proposed amendments to the Classification of Wildlife, also known as the threatened species list.

“The Territory is home to a unique range of native plants and animals and this Government is committed to protecting our rare biodiversity through our Territory 2030 Plan,” Mr Hampton said.

“That’s why last year, during the International Year of Biodiversity, I invited Territorians to propose amendments or additions to the current threatened species list.

“I am pleased to now be able to update Territorians on progress made to the Classification of Wildlife and call for public comment on the proposed amendments.”

Mr Hampton said 621 nominations for changes or additions to the list were considered by an expert panel made up of members from CDU, CSIRO, NRETAS and Department of Resources. The panel:

- Assessed the nominations according to the criteria set out by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as stipulated under regulations in section 28 of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act;
- Recommended 75 changes to the list of threatened species, including 45 additions to the list, three subtractions, 14 category elevations and 13 category demotions;
- Recommended 539 changes involving non-threatened categories, including classifying many plant species that had not been previously been evaluated.

Proposed amendments include the Gouldian finch transitioning from Endangered to Vulnerable.

The expert panel’s decision was based on evidence that populations of this iconic threatened species are no longer declining and there are signs of recovery.

Territorians are invited to provide comment on the revised Classification of Wildlife until 9 September 2011.

Go to www.nt.gov.au/consult or call the Biodiversity Conservation branch within NRETAS on 8995 5000 to view amendments to the list and provide comment.

The Classification of Wildlife is comprehensively reviewed every four to five years to maintain its accuracy and currency and the Territory is the only Australian jurisdiction that regularly conducts comprehensive reviews.

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