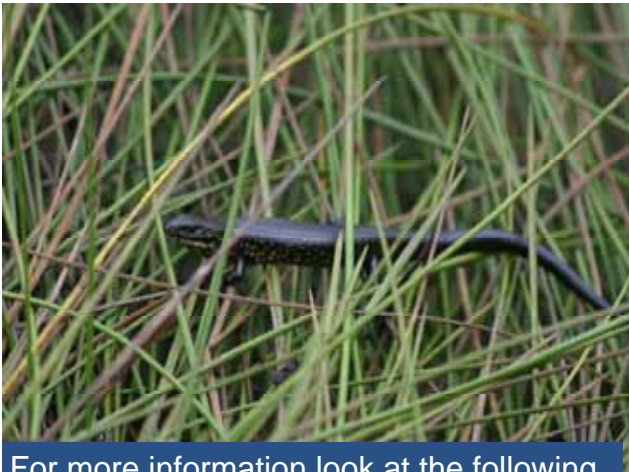


Due to the low numbers of this species - the Blue Mountains Water Skink (*Eulamprus leuraensis*) is listed as an

### endangered species

under both the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Residents of the Blue Mountains now recognise the special qualities of swamps. If your house is near a swamp seek advice from Blue Mountains City Council on how you can assist in protecting these unique habitats.



For more information look at the following websites:

<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/>  
<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au>  
<http://www.green.net.au/rarespecies/>  
<http://www.deh.gov.au/index.html>



### How you can help

- Avoid planting invasive weed species (such as ivy and montbretia) in your garden—a weeds of the Blue Mountains booklet is available from Blue Mountains City Council.
- Minimise use of fertilisers.
- Dispose of chemicals thoughtfully
- Help educate others on the need to look after our swamps.
- Prevent sediment entering our waterways — cover piles of dirt and bare patches of soil.
- Always walk around NOT THROUGH swamps.
- Keep your cat inside at night.
- Join your local Bushcare Group. For more details ring 02) 4780 5623 or e-mail:

[bushcare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bushcare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

our environment it's a living thing



### A Blue Mountains Endangered Species

## Blue Mountains Water Skink (*Eulamprus leuraensis*)



Department of  
Environment and  
Conservation



# Blue Mountains Water Skink (*Eulamprus leuraensis*)

The Blue Mountains Water Skink is a medium sized lizard that grows to approximately 16-20 cm. The body is **very dark brown to black** with **narrow yellow/bronze stripes** along its back continuing as spots along its tail. The legs and sides are also dark brown to black with yellow/bronze streaks and blotches.

This species is currently known from less than 40 locations in the upper Blue Mountains, between Hazel-brook and Newnes Plateau. It is found in sedge and shrub swamps in the upper Blue Mountains, it has also been recorded in vegetation next to creeks.

The Blue Mountains Water Skink is semi-aquatic and is active on warm sunny days from September to April. It feeds on grasshoppers, flies moths, weevils and wasps. The females give birth to live young in late December. When disturbed this species takes refuge in grass tussocks or small holes.



## Habitat

This species is only found one place in the world - in a few swamps of the upper Blue Mountains of NSW.

**Blue Mountains Swamps** are a biologically diverse plant community that occurs nowhere else in the world. The vegetation in these swamps range from low buttongrass clumps to large shrubs such as Hakea and Grevillea species.



Habitat of the Blue Mountains Water Skink

**There are less than 3,000 ha of Blue Mountains Swamp in existence. As they can be small in size, they are very vulnerable to impacts from nearby residential areas.**



## Why is it Endangered ?

The predominant threats to this species include :

- Alteration of its swamp habitat through clearing, weed invasion, pollution and illegal tracks.
- Predation by cats, dogs and foxes.
- Habitat disturbance (walking through swamps).

Other Threatened Species also live in these same habitats :

- Giant Dragonfly (*Petaleura gigantea*)
- Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*)
- Red-Crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*)
- *Pultanaea glabra* (a plant)

