

Due to the low numbers known of this species - the Giant Dragonfly (*Petalura gigantea*) is listed as an **endangered species**

under both the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

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.



Female Giant Dragonfly. Photo: Chris Ireland

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

## Giant Dragonfly (*Petalura gigantea*)



Male Giant Dragonfly . Photo: Chris Ireland



Department of  
Environment and  
Conservation



# Giant Dragonfly (*Petalura gigantea*)

The Giant Dragonfly is the second largest dragonfly in Australia and one of the largest dragonflies in the world with a wingspan to 120 mm.

Giant dragonfly larvae hatch out of eggs laid into moss or vegetation bordering swamps. The larvae hatch and dig extensive burrows in the swamp. They emerge at night to feed, primarily on insects. The larvae are slow growing and this stage of the life-cycle may last up to 10 years. When ready to hatch, the adult dragonfly emerges to hunt around the swamp for flying insects.

The adult stage only lasts a few months, normally from November to March.

This species is difficult to identify accurately, however the males do have distinctive 'petal like' structures at the rear of the body. The exuviae (cast off shell) is another way of identifying this species.



## Habitat

This species is only found in a few locations along the east coast of Australia - in swamps and bogs with some areas of standing water.

**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. These swamps are critical for the survival of the Giant Dragonfly.



Habitat of the Giant Dragonfly

**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.
- Habitat disturbance (walking through swamps).
- Decrease in water quality.

Other Threatened Species also live in these same habitats :

- Blue Mountains Water Skink (*Eulamprus leuraensis*)
- Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*)
- Red-Crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*)
- *Pultanaea glabra* (a plant)