10 Most Endangered Australian Species ©Dr. John Freedman

Australia faces a biodiversity challenge if not crisis, with over 1700 species at risk of extinction as of 2025 according to the DCCEEW (Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment & Water). Major factors include habitat loss, invasive species, bushfire and climate change. Below is an up-to-date list of 10 endangered species prioritized by population size, decline rate, and IUCN (Intl Union for the Conservation of Nature) status. Note that 6 of the 10 are indigenous marsupials, with the other 4 being indigenous birds. These species highlight the urgency: Australia has lost 39 mammal species since European settlement, more than any other nation in the same period.

Note: An excellent online tool for quickly checking on the conservation status of any species is available on the IUCN 'Red List' website: https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/40488/21964009

Rank	Species	Status (IUCN)	Estimated Wild Population	Key Threats
1	Orange-bellied Parrot	Critically Endangered	<50 adults	Habitat loss in coastal saltmarsh, predation by cats/foxes, climate change
2	Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat	Critically Endangered	~80 mature individuals	Habitat degradation, floods, limited genetic diversity
3	Mountain Pygmy-possum	Critically Endangered	<1,000	Climate change reducing bogong moth food source, bushfires, predation
4	Swift Parrot	Critically Endangered	<2,500	Deforestation of breeding/nesting sites, sugar glider predation
5	Regent Honeyeater	Critically Endangered	<500	Habitat fragmentation, competition from invasive birds
6	Greater Glider	Endangered	<10,000	Logging of old-growth eucalypt forests, bushfires
7	Woylie	Critically Endangered	<1,000	Predation by foxes/cats, habitat clearance
8	Eastern Quoll	Endangered (mainland extinct)	<10,000	Competition/disease from introduced species
9	Tasmanian Devil	Endangered	<25,000	DFTD (Devil facial tumor disease), roadkill
10	Gouldian Finch	Endangered	<2,000	Habitat alteration from fire/grazing, nest competition

It's not all doom and gloom: Below is a list of 10 Thriving Australian Species

Many Australian species thrive thanks to lack of destructive pressures, wide ranges and/or adaptability. These are classified as "Least Concern" by the IUCN which means there is no near-term extinction risk. On the list below are common, iconic natives with populations in the millions, often benefiting from protected areas and public awareness. The list focuses on well-known examples with stable or increasing trends as of 2025. These species exemplify Australia's resilient wildlife, but ongoing monitoring is essential as environmental pressures both natural and anthropogenic can affect even stable populations. Conservation successes, like feral cat control, have already clearly benefited many of them.

Rank	Species	Status (IUCN)	Estimated Wild Population	Notes
1	Red Kangaroo	Least Concern	>10 million	Abundant across arid interiors; managed culling for population control
2	Eastern Grey	Least Concern	>5 million	Widespread in eastern forests/grasslands; resilient to habitat changes
3	Common Brushtail Possum	Least Concern	>5 million	Urban adapter; thrives in human-modified environments
4	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Least Concern	>500,000	Common in woodlands; intelligent and adaptable to suburbs
5	Australian Magpie	Least Concern	>1 million	Ubiquitous songbird; stable across diverse habitats
6	Emu	Least Concern	>700,000	Large flightless bird; widespread in open country
7	Laughing Kookaburra	Least Concern	>100,000	Iconic in eucalypt forests; expanding range
8	Rainbow Lorikeet	Least Concern	>5 million	Vibrant parrot; booms in urban areas with nectar sources
9	Galah	Least Concern	>1 million	Pink-grey cockatoo; highly social and adaptable
10	Dingo	Least Concern	>100,000 (though purebreds are declining)	Apex predator; stable in remote areas despite hybridization threats