



Research methodology

Extinction Wrapped 2025

What Extinction Wrapped measures

This report focuses on DCCEEW's annual approved impact on threatened species habitat through decisions made under Australia's national nature protection law, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The figures reflect the maximum amount of habitat per species that the Commonwealth has legally approved to be cleared, not what proponents estimate may occur or what is ultimately cleared.

Species-based approach

To calculate these figures, we analysed the conditions under each EPBC approval decision and determined the total habitat approved for destruction for each individual threatened species. This data was then used to produce breakdowns by industry, state, and threatened species rankings for 2025. As such, all figures are species-specific and should not be confused with total project footprints.

Because threatened species often share and overlap in habitat within project areas, the hectare figures reported here do not represent the net area of land approved to be bulldozed. Instead, they show the gross amount of habitat approved to be impacted for each threatened species, reflecting the level of risk individual species are exposed to through government decision-making.

Data sources and approach

We use EPBC approvals as our primary data source because this report is concerned with Commonwealth decision-making – that is, what the federal government has approved under national law – rather than what approval holders estimate may occur based on project design, or what is actually cleared. These approvals are legally binding decisions issued by the Commonwealth that authorise clearing and set maximum limits on habitat destruction.

The EPBC threatened species list was also monitored throughout 2025 to check for any changes in status or additions.

How to interpret the figures

The hectare figures reported in this analysis: are species-based, are derived from EPBC approvals, should not be read as unique hectares approved for bulldozing, and represent the maximum level of habitat loss the Commonwealth has legally permitted for each species, not a prediction of ecological outcomes or clearing patterns.

Where a single project affects multiple threatened species, the full approved clearing footprint is attributed to each affected species to reflect the approved level of risk to that species. This reflects the legal reality that, under such approvals, the entire approved clearing area could lawfully occur within habitat relevant to a single species, depending on what is identified and cleared over the life of the project. This does not imply that each species occupies the entire area, nor that the figures can be summed to calculate a physical clearing footprint.

This approach allows Extinction Wrapped to track how much threatened species habitat the federal government is approving for destruction each year, and which species are being placed most at risk by those decisions.