

# NSW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

## Determination to make a minor amendment to Schedule 1 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act

The Scientific Committee, established by the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (the Act), has made a determination to amend the list of ENDANGERED SPECIES by inserting *Diplodactylus platyurus* Parker, 1926, Eastern Fat-tailed Gecko, in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Act, and as a consequence omitting reference to *Diplodactylus conspicillatus* Lucas and Frost, 1897, Fat-tailed Diplodactylus. This amendment is the result of a change in the name of the species following a taxonomic revision. This determination is made pursuant to Division 5 of Part 2 of the Act.

The Scientific Committee has found that:

1. The Fat-tailed Diplodactylus, *Diplodactylus conspicillatus* was originally listed as an endangered species in Schedule 1 of the Act on 23 August 2002. *Diplodactylus conspicillatus* was recently split into multiple species with individuals in New South Wales recognised as *D. platyurus*, Eastern Fat-tailed Gecko (Oliver *et al.* (2014)).
2. The Eastern Fat-tailed Gecko *Diplodactylus platyurus* Parker 1926 (family Diplodactylidae) is a small (snout-vent length (SVL) 40.55–60.21 mm) terrestrial gecko with a distinctive short plump tail. It is tan to mid- brown with varying degrees of spotting, most prominent on flanks. Dorsum with an overlay of fine, dark reticulations or a more solid dark pattern. Vertebral zone with reduced pigment but often broken by transverse bars, isolating a series of irregular pale blotches along back. In some specimens the vertebral zone is largely unpatterned and has a wavy edge where it borders the darker paravertebral zone. Head, as for dorsal ground colour with scattered dark flecks or blotches. Canthal stripe absent or very weak without sharply defined edges and not contrasting strongly with other facial markings. Limbs with fine reticulations, inner digits of forelimb with reduced pigmentation. Ventral surfaces off-white. The head is moderate and not strongly differentiated from neck; snout longer than diameter of eye. The neck is broad with small granular scales on dorsal surface that are only slightly larger than the adjacent scales on the lateral surfaces. The tail is short (44.34–78.82% of SVL), wide, spade-like and bluntly pointed. The trunk is moderate and somewhat stout. Original tail scales are arranged in clear transverse bands which incorporate rows of both large and small scales (or consist of scales that are more or less uniform in size). The regrown tail is with rounded distal end and more uniform scalation that is not arranged in clear transverse rows (Cogger 2014; Oliver *et al.* 2014). A more detailed description can be found in Oliver *et al.* (2014).
3. Within the *Diplodactylus conspicillatus* group (includes *D. barraganae*, *D. bilybara*, *D. conspicillatus*, *D. custos*, *D. hillii*, *D. laevis* and *D. platyurus*), the Eastern Fat-tailed Gecko is distinguishable by the following characteristics: the first supralabial is small and not differentiated from the rest of the supralabial row (versus greatly enlarged and contacting ventral edge of nasal scale in other species) and by the absence of a well-defined canthal stripe (versus well-developed canthal stripe) (Oliver *et al.* 2014).
4. In New South Wales, the Eastern Fat-tailed Gecko is known from Sturt National Park, Nocolche Nature Reserve, the Wanaaring region, Paroo-Darling National Park and Mutawintji National Park (NSW Atlas Records). Within Australia, it occurs over much of eastern and central Queensland, from Normanton and around Cairns in the north, south to around Rockhampton in the east and throughout much of the channel country to the west of

---

ESTABLISHED UNDER THE THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT 1995

Contact Address: C/o PO Box 1967 Hurstville BC NSW 1481 Telephone: (02) 9585 6940 Facsimile: (02) 9585 6606

# NSW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

the Great Dividing Range, extending south as far as northwestern New South Wales and northeastern South Australia (Oliver *et al.* 2014).

5. The NSW Scientific Committee is of the opinion that an amendment to the Schedule is necessary or desirable to reflect a reclassification of a species as a result of taxonomic revision.

Dr Mark Eldridge  
Chairperson  
NSW Scientific Committee

## References:

Cogger HG (2014) 'Reptiles and amphibians of Australia.' (CSIRO Publishing: Collingwood)

Oliver PM, Couper PJ, Pepper M (2014) Independent transitions between Monsoonal and Arid Biomes revealed by systematic revision (sic) of a complex of Australian geckos (*Diplodactylus*; Diplodactylidae). *PLoS ONE* 9, e111895.