

ECO FACTS

Species of concern in Lake Macquarie

Insects and reptiles



Land Mullet – *Egernia (Bellatorias) major* Regionally Significant

Shelters in hollow logs, crevices and burrows. Habitat in the City includes wet forested gullies with rainforest understorey and dense thickets on coastal dunes. Also uses disturbed areas adjacent to bushland. A shy lizard, they are found at the edge of thick ground cover with sunny patches used for basking during the day.

Photo: Stephen Mahony



Pink Tongue Skink - *Cyclodomorphus gerrardii* Regionally Significant

The favoured habitat is wet sclerophyll forests and dense rainforest understorey in the western areas of the City. They feed on snails and slugs in moist habitats after rain. Lake Macquarie City is the southern limit of this species.

Photo: Stephen Mahony



Common Scaly-foot - *Pygopus lepidopodus* Regionally Significant

Prefers open habitats such as heath and woodlands but also occurs in coastal sand dunes. Only small areas of habitat are within the City including dry open forests, heaths, and vegetated dunes. Mostly recorded in the coastal fringe and the lower slopes of the Watagans.

Photo: Stephen Mahony



Wood Gecko - *Diplodactylus vittatus* Regionally Significant

Occurs in dry sclerophyll forest including Scribbly Gum forest with Banksia understorey and open dry Spotted Gum and Ironbark forest but the extent of habitat in the City is limited. Found in fallen timber, stones, ground litter and under rocks, along ranges. Their diet consists of insects, small spiders and scorpions.

Photo: Stephen Mahony



Bandy Bandy - *Vermicella annulata*

Regionally Significant

Found in a wide range of habitats beneath the soil surface, under stumps, rocks and logs. A burrowing, nocturnal snake with a specific diet of blind snakes. Blind snakes feed on ants and termites, which are generally found in fallen logs and decaying timber.

Photo: Stephen Mahony



Stephens' Banded Snake - *Hoplocephalus stephensii*

TSC ACT - Vulnerable

Habitat appears not to be associated with vegetation type. Arboreal and rock climbing. Requires native forests with old growth trees for shelter in tree hollows, loose bark, vines and rock crevices. Known to occur in the Watagan, Cooranbong, Olney and Western areas of the City. Feeds on lizards, mice and frogs.

Photo: Nick Weigner



Giant Dragonfly - *Petalura gigantea*

TSC Act - Endangered

Found in peat swamps, bogs and seepages (mires) along the coast and ranges of NSW and swamp habitats from near sea level to 1240m elevation. Larvae feed on a range of invertebrate prey within their burrows. Adults are short-lived over summer emerging after October and live until as late as March. They hunt for flying insects over swamps.

Photo: Ian Baird