

Southern Ark project

Benefiting the biodiversity of East Gippsland through fox control

FACT SHEET

Species in East Gippsland

Southern Ark is a new conservation initiative aimed at facilitating the recovery of native animals and improving the stewardship of public land in East Gippsland through an integrated, large-scale and ongoing fox control program.



A sample of some of the threatened species that inhabit the ecosystems of East Gippsland are listed below. Those in bold are expected to directly benefit from the Southern Ark project, with other species benefiting indirectly through improved ecosystem health.

Critically endangered:

Southern Barred Frog
Eastern Wallaroo
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
Regent Honeyeater
Intermediate Egret
Painted Snipe
Grey-tailed Tattler
King Quail

Endangered:

Golden Sun Moth
Growling Grass Frog
Diamond Python
Smoky Mouse
Long-footed Potoroo
Long-nosed Potoroo
Spot-tailed Quoll
Eastern Bristlebird
Ground Parrot
Swift Parrot
Masked Owl
Barking Owl
Fairy Tern

Vulnerable:

White-footed Dunnart
Brush-tailed Phascogale
Diamond Firetail
Speckled Warbler
Greater Sand Plover
Lesser Sand Plover
Hooded Plover
Little Tern
Glossy Black-Cockatoo
Sooty Owl
Powerful Owl
Black Falcon
Square-tailed Kite

- 11 mammal species, 45 bird species and three reptile species in East Gippsland are listed as threatened, which includes the classifications above of critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable.
- The Southern Ark project is particularly aimed at benefiting mammal species that are “rat-sized” to “small wallaby-sized” that spend all or some of their time on or close to the forest floor. In Far East Gippsland this includes two species of potoroo, two species of bandicoot, the ringtail possum, two species of brushtail possum (Common and Mountain) and a species of rock-wallaby.
- Some of the larger species of wallabies and kangaroos may also increase in number, as foxes are known to prey on their young. Ground-dwelling and ground-nesting birds will also benefit. This includes a wide range of birds, from the endangered Little Tern, Fairy Tern and Hooded Plover, to the Emu whose young often fall prey to foxes.
- Even native predators will benefit from reduced numbers of foxes. Some predators (e.g the three species of large forest owls) will benefit from the direct reduction in the level of competition for food. Other predators, such as Spotted

More information about the Southern Ark project is available at www.dse.vic.gov.au/southernark or by calling the Department of Sustainability and Environment’s Customer Service Centre on 136 186.