



## ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA Threatened Species Profile

Department  
for Environment  
and Heritage

### REPTILE

#### *Eulamprus quoyii*

#### Eastern Water Skink

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	V	-	Resident



Photo: © Mark Hutchinson

#### Conservation Significance

The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.<sup>4</sup>

#### Description

Greenish-greyish brown or olive-brown skink with small black spots on the body and long tail. White stripe from the eye down the side of the body. Approximately 28 cm long.<sup>1,3</sup>

#### Distribution and Population

Occurs in coastal rivers and creeks of NSW and QLD, and inland in the Murray-Darling Basin into north-western VIC and south-eastern SA (Cogger 2000).<sup>3,5</sup>

Found the length of the River Torrens, into the city, and may also occur along the Onkaparinga Valley into the central MLR. Also found along Sturt River, downstream of Coromandel Valley around Flinders University area. Does not occur along AMLR east flowing rivers (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records scattered in the central MLR, from Mount Bold, Onkaparinga River, Sturt Gorge, Cleland CP, Black Hill CP and Kangaroo Creek Reservoir, as well as a record from the River Torrens in metropolitan Adelaide.<sup>4</sup>

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a similar distribution, with additional records along the Sturt River (west of Sturt Gorge CP), near Mylor and an

outlier record south of Strathalbyn.<sup>4</sup>

#### Habitat

Occurs in rainforest, wet and dry sclerophyll forests, coastal and mountain heaths, woodland, coastal and inland wetlands and riverine vegetation along larger inland rivers.<sup>3</sup> Requires boulders and logs for perching and shelter. Found in the AMLR region only on permanent watercourses (River Torrens, Sturt River and Onkaparinga River). Not found where the riverine environment is 'manicured' into neat grassy areas with a few trees. Shelter in holes and burrows, under logs and rocks, and near streams and ponds.<sup>1</sup> Rocky creekbeds are preferred to muddy creekbeds (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Population densities correlate well with the abundance of rocks in open areas which are important as basking platforms and shelter from predators (Daniels and Heatwole 1990; Law and Bradley 1990).<sup>1</sup>

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Riparian.<sup>4</sup>

#### Biology and Ecology

Diurnal lizard that usually basks on rocks or logs. Sometimes seen on rocky ridges well away from water. Takes to rock crevices, hollow logs or the water when alarmed. Feeds on water beetles and other aquatic insects, snails, tadpoles, spiders, small fishes, smaller lizards and native fruit.<sup>1</sup> Forages among vegetation beside watercourses but adopts a 'sit-and-wait' tactic at the water's edge when seeking aquatic prey (Daniels 1987).<sup>3</sup> Omnivorous and viviparous, usually producing two or three young in a litter. Can lose tail as a defence mechanism.<sup>3</sup>

#### Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the majority of the AMLR distribution occurs in Kaurna Nation. It also occurs in Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri Nations.<sup>4</sup>

#### Threats

One hundred and two known or potential threats have been identified, of which 14% are thought to have a significant impact on populations (Daniels and Heatwole 1984).<sup>2</sup>

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

#### Further information:

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



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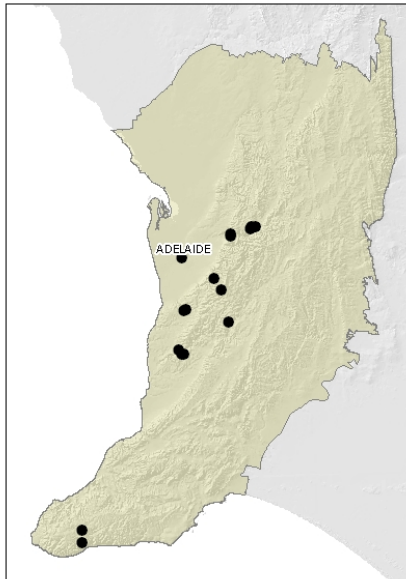


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### Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>4</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

### References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

1 Australian Museum (2003). *Eastern Water Skink Fact Sheet*. Available from [http://www.amonline.net.au/wild\\_kids/freshwater/water\\_skink.htm](http://www.amonline.net.au/wild_kids/freshwater/water_skink.htm) (accessed November 2007).

2 Cogger, H. G. (1993). General Description and Definition of the Order Squamata. In: C. J. Glasby, G. J. B. Ross, and P. L. Beesley, eds. *Fauna of Australia Vol. 2A Amphibia and Reptilia*. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

3 Cogger, H. G. (2000). *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia (Sixth Edition)*. Reed New Holland.

4 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

5 Turner, M. S. (2001). *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources*. Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Adelaide.

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