

Am I your BUSH Bud?

Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon

About me:

The Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon is a tiny lizard confined to remnants of Native. Their total adult body length is usually less than 150 mm and they weigh between 5 and 9 grams. For sheltering and nesting, they use insect burrows, particularly those of wolf spiders and the Canberra Raspy Cricket. They eat a variety of small invertebrates, particularly ants, beetles, spiders, and moths. Individuals have a short lifespan, which makes them and their eggs vulnerable to changes in the environment. Females usually only survive long enough to produce a solitary clutch of between 3 to 7 eggs. The Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon is on the edge of extinction. It was recognised as a distinct species in 2019 and simultaneously proposed for threatened species listing as critically endangered. There are just a few small genetically distinct populations in and around the ACT: at North Canberra, South Canberra, Jerrabomberra, and Queanbeyan.



Credit: Rob Armstrong

Threats:

Approximately 99.5% of Natural Temperate Grassland in Australia has been destroyed or drastically altered since European settlement. Loss and degradation of their grassland habitat reduces this species' area of occupancy and leads to a long-term decrease in the size of their populations. Remaining populations are also threatened by predation and climate change.

Become my Bush Bud!

Take a stand for Canberra's Nature and sign up to get the chance to walk with an expert in the habitat of the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon!

