

Pygmy bluetongue *Tiliqua adelaidensis*

Status National (EPBC Act): Endangered I State (NPW Act SA): Endangered

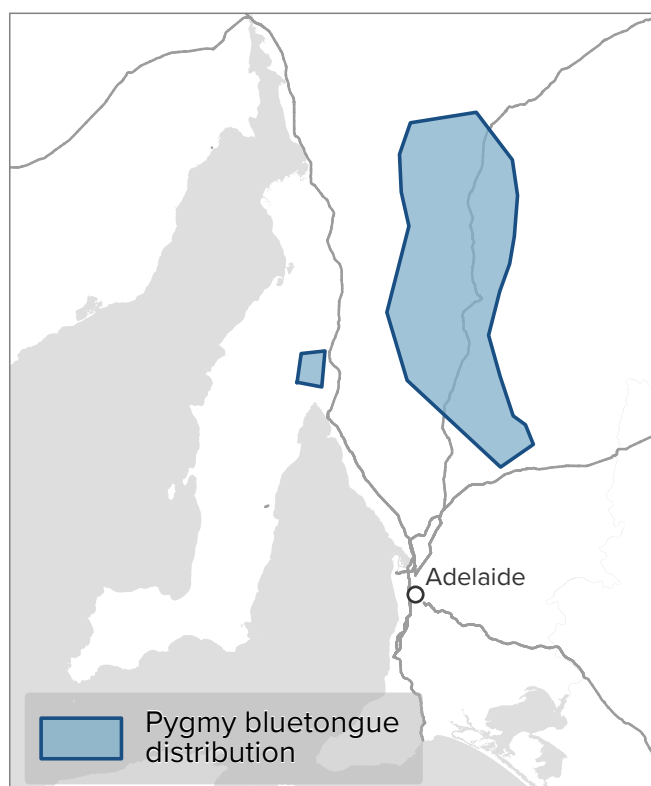
The endangered pygmy bluetongue has a severely fragmented distribution and is threatened by changes in land use, inappropriate grazing regimes and climate change. Its conservation is supported by active research of population size, distribution and resilience to climate change through translocations.

Distribution and habitat

The pygmy bluetongue is a highly cryptic lizard that lives exclusively in vacated spider holes. Its distribution is limited to a small number of fragments of natural, unploughed grasslands of South Australia's Mid North. Known pygmy bluetongue populations are largely found on private land.

Population trend

While there are no longitudinal data, the species may be experiencing a decline. The pygmy bluetongue is difficult to monitor due to its cryptic nature and challenges of monitoring on privately owned land. Not all areas of suitable habitat have been searched for the presence of the lizards.



Data source: IUCN, Stewart MacDonald, Reid Tingley 2017. *Tiliqua adelaidensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2022-2.

Threats to the species

Short to medium-term threats include changes in land use (e.g. infrastructure development) and altered grazing regimes. In the long term, climate change poses a significant threat. Understanding the response of populations to wet and dry cycles, and longer term trends in climate, remain limited.

What is being done?

Pygmy bluetongue is one of 11 priority reptile species included in the Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032. The Pygmy Bluetongue Recovery Team, in collaboration with Flinders University, government departments, land managers, and the public, is actively conserving this species. Ongoing research and translocation trials re focussed on determining translocation feasibility and effective management strategies.



Image: Mike Gardner



Image: Julie Schofield