

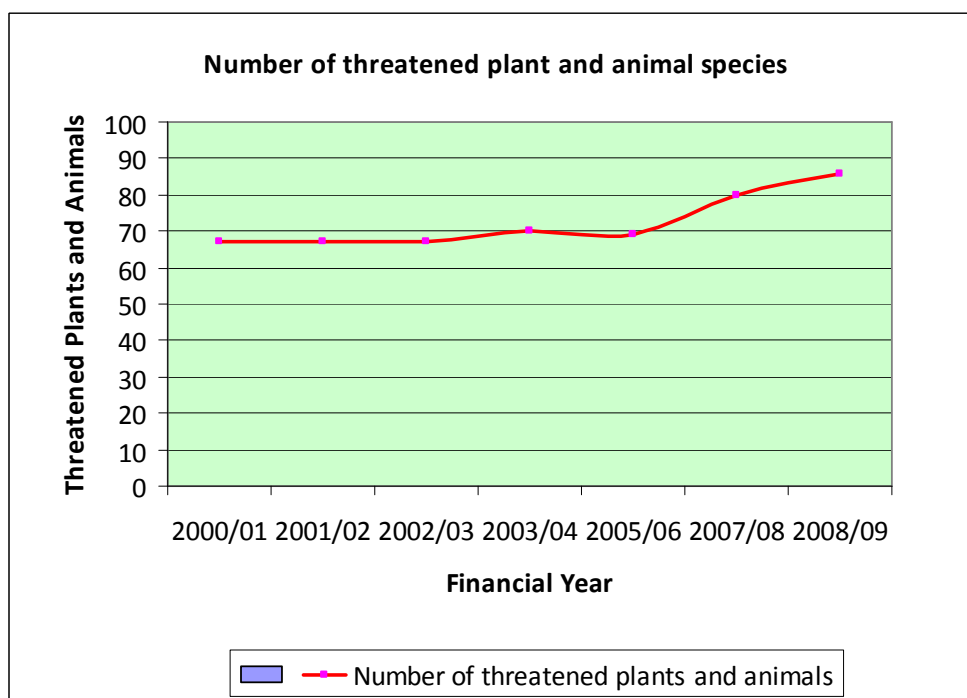
## Biodiversity

### What are we monitoring?

***The number of threatened plants and animals within the Blue Mountains local government area (LGA)***

### What is the trend?

The number of threatened species in the Blue Mountains increased from 67 in 2000-2001 to 86 in 2008-2009. In 1995, Smith and Smith reported that there were 327 native animals and 946 native plants in the Blue Mountains local government area in 1995. A more recent analysis has not been undertaken and an assessment of the number of new species has not been attempted.



| Financial Year                          | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2005/06 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of threatened plants and animals | 67      | 67      | 67      | 70      | 69      | 80      | 86      |

The number of threatened species within the LGA is monitored in accordance with the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 and Fisheries Management Act, 1994. Threatened plant species are listed on the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 and the number of those species that have been found to inhabit the Blue Mountains LGA has been determined by the Council as a result of extensive vegetation mapping. Increases in the identified number of threatened plant, animal and ecological communities within an area can be influenced by these communities being successfully nominated as listed threatened species rather than by actual changes in the biodiversity of the area. This presents challenges to presenting meaningful trend data and measures of biodiversity. However the availability of data demonstrating a change in status in biodiversity is very limited. The numbers of Listed Threatened Species in the Blue Mountains is available data which indicates changes in progress over time. This data therefore remains a relevant indicator of biodiversity.

### Why is monitoring this trend important?

Biodiversity is inherently valuable in its own right and a reason why many visitors and residents come to the City of Blue Mountains – a City in a World Heritage environment. Monitoring the biodiversity of the animal and plant species provides an indication of the impact of the human development on the natural environment. There are other variables that may contribute to the decline in biodiversity such as bushfires and episodes of drought.

**Source:** Blue Mountains City Council, State of Environment Reports 2000 – 2008, - City of Blue Mountains [www.sustainablebluemountains.net.au/resources/publications/](http://www.sustainablebluemountains.net.au/resources/publications/), Smith, P. and Smith, J. 1995. Flora and fauna study for the Blue Mountains Environmental Management Plan.