

Current Status

Initial survey completed

Greater catchment surveys ongoing – seeking funding for further surveys.

Project: 100058

Ellen Clark's crayfish *Euastacus clarkae* is currently listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Redlist. Unfortunately, this freshwater crayfish is not currently listed at a state or federal level and there are no specific conservation measures in place for this species. Currently little is known on the species with the only published data being the original description of eleven specimens collected from essentially one locality, in two nearby tributaries of one creek by Garry Morgan in 1981.

Research is desperately needed to provide both an insight into the current distribution and conservation status of this crayfish and to implement the correct management strategies to protect the species and its habitat. Initial surveys have indicated that the species may have a greater distribution than recorded by Morgan 1997. This project aims to survey the catchment, identify all the crayfish species present and fill the knowledge gaps on the species biology and ecology.

This project aims to:

1. Survey the entire region to record all the species in the region and gather biological and ecological information on *Euastacus clarkae*.
2. Publish the results in the Journal of Crustacean Biology: CONSERVATION OF IMPERILLED CRAYFISH - *EUASTACUS CLARKAE* MORGAN (DECAPODA: PARASTACIDAE), A HIGHLAND CRAYFISH FROM WERRIKIMBE NATIONAL PARK, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA
3. Use the published results to nominate the species to the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee (an independent body established under Part 7A of the Fisheries Management Act 1994) for listing under threatened species legislation of the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

Once listed conservation management plans can be developed and instigated for *Euastacus clarkae* and its habitat.

