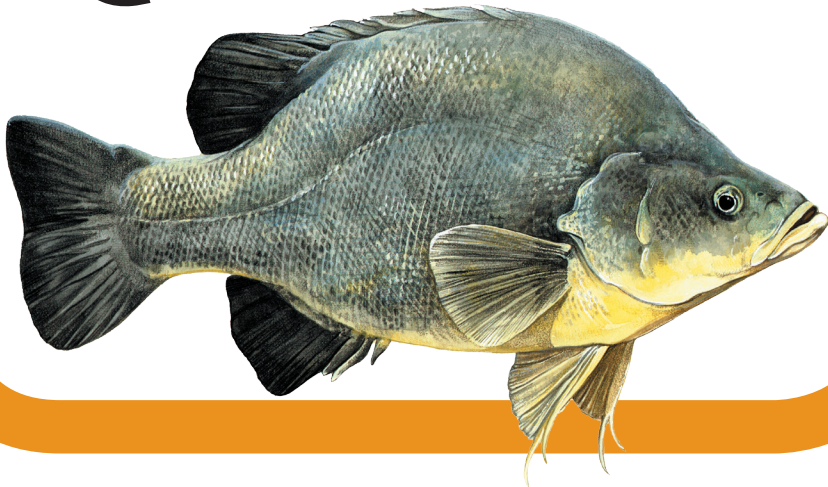


# Golden perch



## Consumer

*Species name: Macquaria ambigua*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore. I eat small fish, insects, molluscs and crustaceans (like yabbies).

### **Who eats me?**

Humans find me pretty tasty (when I'm big enough!)  
My eggs may be eaten by other aquatic animals.

### **Threats?**

Human impacts (like building blockages across rivers) stop me moving to the places where I breed. I don't like sudden temperature changes, so I disappear when lots of cold water is let out of dams - this is not a natural thing!



**Egeria  
densa**

## **Producer**

### **How did I get here?**

I came from South America. I am a popular plant for fish tanks because I am very tough and grow quickly. I probably spread throughout the river system when someone emptied their fish tank into a creek!

### **What do I eat?**

I use sunlight to make my own food through photosynthesis.

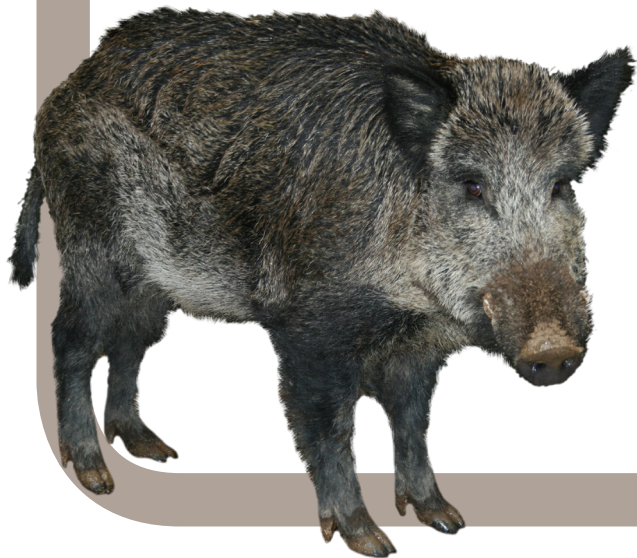
### **Who eats me?**

There aren't many native animals that eat me!

### **Threats?**

I am a threat! In the wild, I can grow bigger and faster than many native plants. I make a thick mat in the water and block sunlight to other plants. I am really tough – if you cut me into pieces, each one will grow into a new plant.





**Feral  
pig**

## **Consumer**

*Species name: Sus scrofa*

### **How did I get here?**

Early European settlers brought me and released me into the wild (because they wanted to hunt and eat me).

### **What do I eat?**

I'm an omnivore and will eat almost anything, including native plants, frogs, reptiles, turtle eggs, birds and small mammals.

### **Who eats me?**

No native animals actively prey on me. Human hunters might kill me.

### **Threats?**

I'm a threat! I dig up the ground looking for things to eat. This kills native plants and damages the soil. I can have lots of babies and we all eat a lot. We can do a lot of damage to farm crops and fences.

# Carp



## **Consumer**

*Species name: Cyprinus carpio*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm originally from Asia, but people released me into the rivers of Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I am an omnivore. I eat plants and suck up mud from the riverbed and filter out all the tasty molluscs, shellfish, insects and seeds.

### **Who eats me?**

Nothing eats me when I'm big enough (except humans - but they don't like me that much!) Other fish may eat my eggs.

### **Threats?**

I'm a big threat! We're great breeders - we can lay up to 1.5 million eggs! My feeding style makes the water muddy. Native fish can't see to feed and their gills can get 'choked'. The muddy water also blocks sunlight, making it hard for native plants to grow.

The image features a vibrant green, feathery plant, identified as water milfoil, which is shown in a close-up, slightly angled view. The plant's stems are thin and yellowish-brown, with numerous fine, needle-like leaves radiating from them, creating a dense, bushy appearance. The background is a solid, bright green, which makes the plant stand out. The entire image is framed by a thick, rounded green border.

# Water Milfoil

## **Producer**

*Genus name: Myriophyllum*

### **How did I get here?**

I am one of many species that are native to Australia. Other types are found overseas too.

### **What do I eat?**

I use sunlight to make my own food through photosynthesis.

### **Who eats me?**

Aquatic insect larvae and yabbies.

### **Threats?**

Some types of me have no threats. However, trampling by stock, too much fertiliser, invasion by other weeds and land clearing have threatened other types.

I'm a friendly plant, providing fish with shelter and places to lay their eggs.

A low-angle photograph of tall, golden-brown reeds reaching towards a bright sky. The reeds are slightly blurred, suggesting a gentle breeze. The entire image is framed by a thick orange border with rounded corners.

# Common reed

## **Producer**

*Species name: Phragmites australis*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I use sunlight to make my own food through photosynthesis.

### **Who eats me?**

Tadpoles like to graze on the algae that grows on my stems.

### **Threats?**

I'm pretty tough. I can grow in deep water and also survive short droughts. I am a threat in other countries where I have been introduced.

At home, I can minimise the threat of poor water quality by holding river banks together with my roots, and filtering some 'bad' nutrients (like stormwater) to keep the river water clean.





**Ribbon  
Weed**

## **Producer**

*Scientific name: Vallisneria australis*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I use sunlight to make my own food through photosynthesis.

### **Who eats me?**

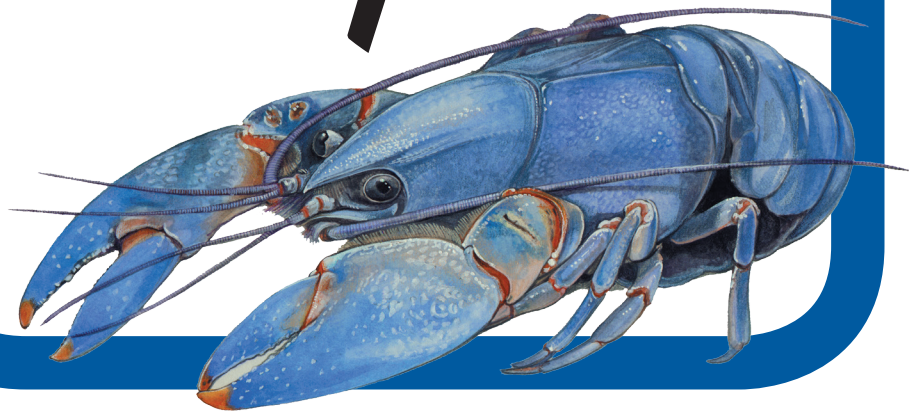
Macroinvertebrates, turtles, plant-eating fish.

### **Threats?**

Invasive weeds like *Egeria densa* can choke me out. Carp make the water too muddy for me to get enough sunlight.

I put oxygen into the water and provide shelter and shade for aquatic animals. I help prevent toxic algal blooms by taking in organic matter with my roots – leaving little for the algae to feed on.

# Yabby



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Cherax destructor*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia. There are many different species native to different parts of the country.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm mostly herbivorous but sometimes I eat animal matter. I'm good at cleaning up decaying plants and animals.

### **Who eats me?**

Native fish like the golden perch and Murray cod and native birds like the ibis.

### **Threats?**

In some areas where I have been introduced, I am a threat to other yabby species. Where I belong, I'm threatened by pollution: pesticides used to control insects, plant fertilisers and chemicals from cars, which can be washed into the water when it rains.

# Pacific black duck



## Consumer

*Scientific name: Anas superciliosa*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm mostly herbivorous, eating seeds of aquatic plants. Sometimes I'll also eat small macroinvertebrates.

### **Who eats me?**

Cats and foxes (not native!); and also native quolls, water rats and snakes.

### **Threats?**

I don't have any big threats at the moment. I'm widespread and breed well enough to keep my population strong.

# Grasshopper



## **Consumer**

*Order: orthoptera. Family Acrididae*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm a native to Australia and there's thousands of species of me and my family: grasshoppers, katydids and locusts.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a herbivore. I eat different grasses and love to eat crops such as wheat.

### **Who eats me?**

Many types of birds, like kookaburras and frogs. Some other insects eat my eggs.

### **Threats?**

I'm a threat to crops. I can lay over 100 eggs at a time and when they hatch, my young look for food straight away. So if I plant eggs in farmers' crops, they can do a lot of damage!



Crucifix  
toad



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Notaden bennettii*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

An adult I'm an insectivore, eating mostly ants, crickets and termites.

### **Who eats me?**

Not much! My bright colour warns predators not to eat me. Snakes sometimes try to eat me - but I make a sticky 'glue' on my skin which can confuse them.

### **Threats?**

I'm threatened by clearing of native plants from the floodplains where I live. Cane toad tadpoles are bigger and stronger than my young, and compete with us for food.

# Peron's tree frog



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Litoria peroni*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

As an adult I'm an insectivore, eating insects, spiders, moths and small invertebrates.

### **Who eats me?**

Kookaburras, wading birds like ibis and herons, and snakes.

### **Threats?**

Like all frogs, pollution (from fertilisers, insecticides and road runoff) is a threat to me when it damages water quality. Land clearing and unnatural drying of wetlands destroys my habitat.

# Nardoo



## **Producer**

*Species name: Marsilea drummondii*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia. There's a few different species of me.

### **What do I eat?**

I use sunlight to make my own food through photosynthesis.

### **What eats me?**

When I'm fresh, I'm toxic. I grow a hard nut-like spore pod which Aboriginal Australians roast and grind. When prepared like this my pods are safe to eat!

### **Threats?**

None really, except clearing.

I'm widespread throughout Australia. I'm also very well adapted to the variable Australian climate – I can survive long droughts by leaving my spore pods dormant in the dry earth until it floods.

# phytoplankton



## **Producer**

*There are many different types.*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia. I'm made up of lots of different organisms and am found in water bodies all over the world.

### **What do I eat?**

I use sunlight to make my own food through photosynthesis.

### **Who eats me?**

I'm at the bottom of the food chain. I'm eaten by zooplankton (tiny aquatic animals), macroinvertebrates, shrimp, tadpoles and small fish.

### **Threats?**

Poor water quality will hurt me. If I die, it will affect the whole food chain!



# Shrimp



## **Consumer**

*Genus name: Caridina*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia - there are lots of different species here! I live in fresh water.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a bit of a scavenger. I mostly eat bits of dead plants and animals. I like algae and phytoplankton too.

### **Who eats me?**

Dragonfly larvae, fish, crabs, waterbirds, platypus ... even people.

### **Threats?**

I am tolerant of a few changes in water quality, but if there are too many chemicals in the water I'll die.



**Mayfly  
nymph**

## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Jappa strigata*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia – called the horned burrowing mayfly. There are many other types in my family – found in freshwater areas all around the world.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a herbivore. Some of us scrape algae from rocks, some eat small pieces of dead plants. I eat both.

### **Who eats me?**

Small fish.

### **Threats?**

I'm very sensitive and need very good water quality. I can't live in water with chemical pollution, or when it is too salty or murky (not clear).

# Dragonfly larva



## **Consumer**

*Genus name: Diplacodes*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia. There are many different species in my family, so we are found all over the world.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore and eat other macroinvertebrates – almost anything smaller than me.

### **Who eats me?**

Frogs, ducks, fish and platypus.

### **Threats?**

I spend more time as a larva than as an adult. I'm very tolerant of changes in water quality (compared to some), but you won't find me where the water is too polluted.

# Mosquito larva



## **Consumer**

*Genus name: Culex*

### **How did I get here?**

There are many different species in my family, found all over the world.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a scavenger and mostly eat bits of dead plants and animals. I like algae and phytoplankton too.

### **Who eats me?**

Frogs, small fish, dragonfly larva.

### **Threats?**

I'm very tolerant of water quality. Because some of us can carry diseases, I'm more of a threat to humans than they are to me!



# Water boatman



## Consumer

*Genus name: Sigara*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia. There's a few different species of me.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a herbivore. I eat algae and aquatic plants by injecting saliva into them and sucking out the nutritious mush!

### **Who eats me?**

Fish.

### **Threats?**

I'm not currently threatened. I can tolerate a fair bit of change in water quality, but too many chemicals (pesticides, fertilizers and stuff washed off roads) would be a threat.

**Water  
treader**



## **Consumer**

*Genus name: Mesovelia*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore and eat smaller macroinvertebrates.

### **Who eats me?**

Small fish.

### **Threats?**

I'm not currently threatened.

I can tolerate a fair bit of change in water quality, but too many chemicals (pesticides, fertilizers and stuff washed off roads) would be a threat.

# Ibis



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Threskiornis molucca*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore and like to eat invertebrates like native crayfish, mussels and insects. Some of my cousins have learned to find food (in bins and parks) in cities!

### **Who eats me?**

As an adult I'm too big for most animals to eat, but snakes and birds of prey may eat my eggs and young.

### **Threats?**

If there isn't enough water in wetlands, we need to find new homes - these are often the same places people live!

# Kookaburra



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Dacelo leachii*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore and eat mice, snakes, insects and small reptiles.

### **Who eats me?**

Native eagles, owls and non-natives like cats and foxes.

### **Threats?**

My habitat is damaged by land clearing. Introduced predators like cats are also a big threat.



# Murray cod



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Maccullochella peelii*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I eat anything smaller than myself – other fish, shrimp and crayfish. Our babies eat macroinvertebrates.

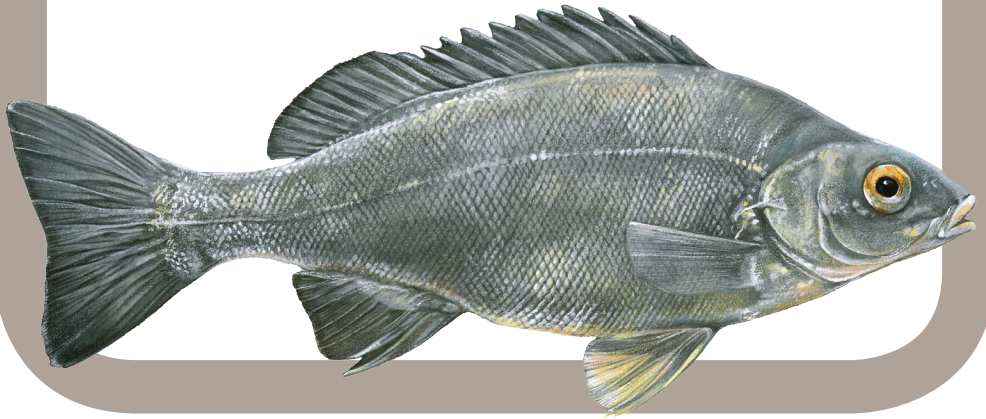
### **Who eats me?**

When I am fully grown no other fish eat me. Humans like to fish for me, but they have to stick to the fishing rules.

### **Threats?**

Overfishing – Early European settlers caught so many of us that in some places we went extinct! Removing dead trees from the river destroys our homes too. Since carp were introduced we have had to compete with them for food and shelter.

# Silver perch



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Bidyanus bidyanus*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm an omnivore and eat aquatic plants and animals – especially insects and small crustaceans.

### **Who eats me?**

Murray cod.

### **Threats?**

Carp compete with us for food and shelter. Dams and weirs built on some rivers stop water getting to our breeding and feeding sites, and stop us travelling to those places too. This means we stop having babies.

# Tadpole



## **Consumer**

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm an omnivore. I eat plant matter, phytoplankton and mosquito larva.

### **Who eats me?**

Dragonfly larvae, fish, turtles.

### **Threats?**

Like frogs and tadpoles, I have special skin that allows water to pass through, but pollution can also go through my skin and can cause harm. Cane toad tadpoles are also a big threat, as they compete with me for food and shelter.

# Spotted marsh frog



## **Consumer**

*Species name: Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm an insectivore and eat insects, spiders, moths and small invertebrates.

### **Who eats me?**

Kookaburras, snakes, wading birds like herons and egrets. Even hungry feral cats and foxes will eat me!

### **Threats?**

Like all frogs, I have special skin that allows water to pass through, but this means pollution can also go through my skin and can cause harm. When not enough water gets into my favourite wetlands (marshes) that's a threat too. This can be caused by drought, but also by humans.



# Barking marsh frog



## **Consumer**

*Species name: Limnodynastes fletcheri*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm an insectivore and eat insects, spiders, moths and small invertebrates.

### **Who eats me?**

Kookaburras, snakes and wading birds like herons and egrets. Even hungry feral cats and foxes will eat me!

### **Threats?**

Like all frogs, I have special skin that allows water to pass through, but this means pollution can also go through my skin and can cause harm. When not enough water gets into my favourite wetlands (marshes) that's a threat too. This can be caused by drought, but also by humans.

# Green tree frog



## **Consumer**

*Scientific name: Litoria caerulea*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore and mostly eat insects, spiders, crickets, small lizards and even other frogs!

### **Who eats me?**

Snakes and birds like to eat me, but so do non-native animals like cats and dogs.

### **Threats?**

Like all frogs, I have special skin that allows water to pass through, but this means pollution can also go through my skin and can cause harm. When not enough water gets into my favourite wetlands (marshes) that's a threat too. This can be caused by drought, but also by humans.

# Eastern long necked turtle



## **Consumer**

*Species name: Chelodina expansa*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore and eat insect larvae, small invertebrates, tadpoles, frogs and sometimes fish!

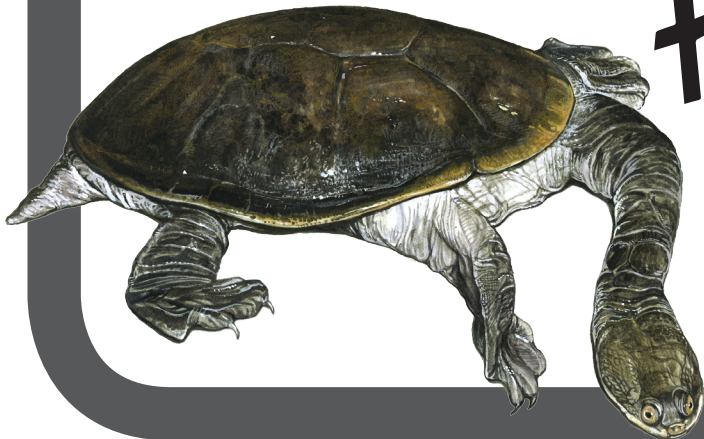
### **Who eats me?**

Feral pigs eat my eggs, birds and fish may eat me when I'm very young. Foxes love to eat turtle eggs if they can get them.

### **Threats?**

I spend lots of time on land, which means roads near wetlands and rivers can be very dangerous. Being hit by boats or caught in fishing nets are also threats. Water held in dams rather than flowing into wetlands means there's less homes for me.

# Broad shelled turtle



## **Consumer**

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm a carnivore and eat fish, frogs and macroinvertebrates.

### **Who eats me?**

Feral pigs (and goannas) eat my eggs, birds and big fish may eat my young.

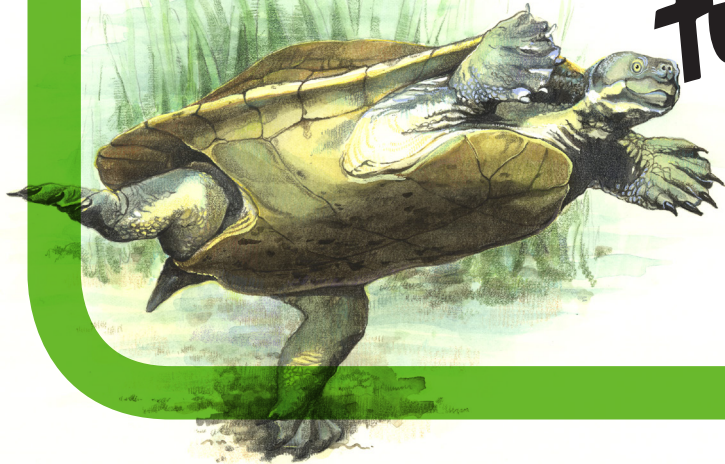
### **Threats?**

I spend lots of time in the water, so sometimes I get caught by humans fishing for something else. The hook needs to be safely removed so I can be released with a good chance of survival.

Foxes love to eat turtle eggs if they can get them.



# Murray River turtle



## **Consumer**

*Species name: Emydura macquarii*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

I'm an omnivore and eat shrimp, snails, slugs, water plants and decaying matter.

### **Who eats me?**

My eggs and babies are eaten by goannas, birds and non-native animals like foxes and feral pigs. When we're big enough we don't have many natural predators.

### **Threats?**

My habitat is threatened by pollution from fertilisers, lack of water due to regular drought, and rising salinity levels.

# Mosquito



## **Consumer**

*Genus name: Culex*

### **How did I get here?**

I'm native to Australia.

### **What do I eat?**

Our females are parasitic and need to feed on the blood of animals. Males eat nectar from flowers.

### **Who eats me?**

Birds, microbats, fish, frogs and dragonflies.

### **Threats?**

I'm very tolerant of water quality. Because some of us can carry diseases, I'm more of a threat to humans than they are to me!