

Our endangered coastal emus need your help

Pressures that have driven the decline in emu numbers include habitat loss and degradation, weeds, fire, feral animals, vehicle strikes, and barriers or disruptions to their movement across the landscape.

Habitat loss: The habitat our coastal emus rely on is being continually fragmented and degraded by land clearing and development. Fire results in the loss of protective refuges, movement corridors, and food resources.

Feral animals: Emus are ground-nesting, flightless birds. This makes them extremely vulnerable to predation, particularly during the breeding season. Foxes, feral pigs, and feral and domestic dogs prey on nesting birds, eggs and chicks.

Barriers: Fences, highways and roads, agricultural and urban development, and impenetrable weed infestations can impede emus' natural and essential movements across the landscape.

Fences can prevent emus from moving freely, inhibiting or obstructing their movement.

Emus travel long distances in search of food and during breeding season, often crossing roads, where they risk being struck by vehicles.

Register your sighting: Knowing where coastal emus are and understanding their movement patterns helps to apply management where it is most needed. Evidence of emu activity includes actual sightings, hearing drumming, tracks, scats, feathers, or eggs.



To record your emu sightings scan the code to visit Clarence Valley Council's Emu Register.



Micah Ruedin



Elise Derwin

Report injured, sick or orphaned emus to **WIRES** on **1300 094 737**

For more information or assistance contact **Clarence Landcare**

Suite 1/48 Prince Street
Grafton NSW 2460

Phone: 02 6643 5009

Email: landcare@clarencelandcare.com.au

Clarence Landcare



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Managing Your Land to Help Our

COASTAL EMUS



Micah Ruedin

- Improve emu habitat
- Remove or modify barriers
- Control feral animals
- Report emu sightings and activity



Elise Derwin



About Coastal Emus

Local Indigenous communities share an ancient cultural relationship with coastal emus, which were once abundant across Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl country. Local language words for the emu are:

Nguruny/Ngurihny -

Bundjalung

Gugaamgan - Gumbaynggirr

Yugaamgan - Yaygirr (Yaegl)

Artwork: Aneika Kapeen

The **Yugaamgan Festival**, held in October each year at Wooloweyah, celebrates the coastal emu and raises awareness of this threatened population.

Historically widespread in north-eastern New South Wales, coastal emus now occur only from Evans Head to Red Rock and the Bungawalbin area, with their main strongholds near Yuraygir National Park and Bungawalbin National Park.

The last remaining coastal population of the emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) is right here on our doorstep, and they need our help. The population is state-listed as Endangered. With fewer than 50 individuals, coastal emus are at high risk of extinction unless we act now to protect them.

But aren't there lots of emus?

Our coastal emus have been geographically isolated for so long that they differ genetically from emus in other regions. West of the Great Dividing Range, the most likely geographic barrier, their inland cousins remain common.

The role of emus in maintaining healthy ecosystems

Emus are critical for dispersing seed and promoting germination of many of our native plants. As they move across the landscape in search of food, they transport and distribute seeds over distances of up to 50 km, depositing them in their scats. One emu scat can contain 1000 seeds!

What You Can Do

For the coastal emu to persist, we need the help of the local community to protect them and their habitat.

Improve and protect habitat - retain and enhance bushland areas and corridor links to ensure our emus have access to safe refuges and suitable food resources. Maintaining fire breaks and controlling bushland weeds will **reduce fire risk**.

Remove barriers by installing emu-friendly fences or emu gates to facilitate access along natural foraging paths and to provide escape routes from road traffic. (Contact Clarence Valley Council or visit their website for advice.) Check your fences regularly for any injured/entangled wildlife. **Controlling bushland weeds** will also reduce barriers.

Slow down if you see an emu beside a road or attempting to cross. Give it space to safely complete its passage.

Control feral animals on your land to reduce the risk of injury or death to emus.



S. Otton

*If you have feral pest animals or signs of activity on your land, contact **Local Land Services** for assistance on control options. Scan the code for more information.*



FeralPigScan is a free community resource for recording feral pig activity and sightings, damage to crops, and control activities. It enables users to seek assistance, alert neighbours, and develop maps to guide coordinated control activities. Scan the code to visit the web site.



Matt Morris

Feral Pigs

The impact of feral pigs on our coastal emus is devastating. They destroy nests and eggs and kill young chicks. They also damage emus' native food resources and foul water bodies.

Feral pigs are highly adaptable and switch food preferences depending on what is available. This, combined with their ability to reproduce year-round when conditions are favourable, allows them to multiply quickly and successfully establish in a range of habitats.

Effective control of feral pigs requires an integrated, collaborative approach and usually requires a combination of methods, including baiting, trapping and shooting.

Government agencies can provide advice and assist with controlling feral pigs on your land.

Local Land Services supports landholders control feral pigs to reduce the impacts on their property's agricultural and environmental assets. Scan the code opposite for more information.



Micah Ruedin