

# Kroombit Tops:

## A haven for threatened species

Kroombit Tops National Park, located between Monto and Calliope in the Boyne Valley is a unique rainforest landscape, home to a number of significant animal and reptile species.

The critically endangered Kroombit Tinkerfrog (*Taudactylus pleione*) has been closely monitored for approximately ten years, however two new species endemic to the region have recently been discovered.

These species are the Kroombit Treefrog (*Litoria kroombitensis*) and the Silver-Headed Antechinus (*Antechinus argentus*), a new species of antechinus, which is a small mouse-like marsupial.



Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) supports ongoing research on these three unique species through funding from the Australian Government. It is thought that all three species are found only at Kroombit Tops, although further survey work is being done to determine if the Kroombit Treefrog and Silver-headed Antechinus occur in similar habitat nearby.

The treefrog and antechinus were first described in 2013, and further research is ongoing to determine their habitat preferences, life cycles and conservation status. It is likely that both new species will be listed as vulnerable at minimum under the EPBC Act. The treefrog is currently listed as endangered in Queensland. As the antechinus is newly described it has no current listing in Queensland or nationally.

These species are thought to be found only at Kroombit Tops because of Kroombit's elevation (an extensive plateau of approx. 800m in height, inhabited by rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest), which ensures its species are geographically isolated from similar locations.

FBA and Boyne Calliope Sub Region are currently working with land managers at Kroombit Tops to improve fire management and pig control in the area. This project is supported by FBA through Australian Government funding.



Australian Government



# Unique to Kroombit Tops...

## Silver-headed Antechinus (*Antechinus argentus*)

The silver-headed antechinus is one of Australia's newest mammals, only confirmed in April 2013 when it was discovered at Kroombit Tops. It is a small carnivorous mouse-like marsupial with sharp teeth. It has an overall silvery/grey appearance with much paler silver feet and a drabber deep greyish-olive rump, than the better-known yellow-footed antechinus.



## Kroombit Tree Frog (*Litoria kroombitensis*)

A small green or greenish-brown frog, less than 45mm in length. It has distinct, rounded finger and toe pads and a thin gold line running from its nose over the eye and ear hole to above the forelimb. It has a gold iris and a blunt, gently rounded snout. Its mating call consists of a short whine followed by one or more chirps.



## Kroombit Tinker Frog (*Taudactylus pleione*)

These small frogs grow to about 25mm in length and can be identified by an X-shaped patch between its shoulders. Its body is greyish with brown specks, and yellowish back legs. It has darker grey spots between the eyes and a rounded nose. Its call during mating season is a croaking that is almost a metallic 'tink' noise.



Australian Government



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION



Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc.

