

# PERCHED BAUXITE SPRINGS

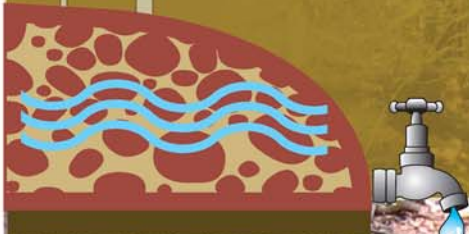
Seven so far have been discovered

The springs provide critical habitat and an important water source all year round for many **rare** and **threatened** plant and wildlife species

The largest of these springs extends for 640m across the margin of the bauxite plateau and produces a wealth of ferns, mosses, insectivorous and other rainforest plants. The **rare Palm Cockatoo** also nests in the spring's rainforests, and utilises both rainforest and woodland trees for food.

The springs are vital to the hydrology of the Wenlock River Catchment, and are enormously significant to the Traditional Owners of the area.

The surrounding semi-porous bauxite layer holds water from wet-season rains. This slowly seeps out over the dry-season, providing the water source for these rare and unique springs.



## RELIC RAINFORESTS

Rare living museums of past times

THE STEVE IRWIN WILDLIFE RESERVE is home to three large clusters of Relic Rainforest

They are so biologically important that they have been placed on the National Heritage List, called the "Bertiehaugh *Notophyll* Vine Forests".

They occur as islands of rainforest surrounded by a sea of dry savanna woodland, and are abundant with lianas and buttressed tree trunks.

They survive as **relic refuges** of much larger rainforests that were present when the climate was wetter, and fire was not so prevalent.

*They have been unprotected in this location until now.*

