





The **Brolga**:

Is grey in colour with a featherless red head and grey crown

Can grow up to 1.3m in height

Has a wingspan of up to 2m

Female is shorter and weighs less than the male **Brolga**

Can live up to 60 years of age





There are approximately 20 000 – 100 000 **Brolgas** in Australia. Most **Brolgas** are found in the north of Australia, however only about 650 are thought to live in Victoria.

Brolgas live in rural areas. In large open wetlands, grassy plains, coastal mudflats, irrigated croplands, and in mangroves and estuaries.

They are found in pairs during the breeding season, however can be found at other times in flocks of 100 – 1000 birds.





Brolgas:

Are omnivores - they eat plants and animals.

Feed during the day.

Mainly feed on the left over stubble of crops and tubers (underground stems or roots).

Also eat frogs, snails, insects and even mice.





Brolgas:

Breed between September and December in Victoria and have one partner for life.

Lay 2 creamy white eggs with brown spots in nests that are often 1.5 m across.

Perform complicated mating dances. They face each other and with their wings spread out they jump and leap, flap their wings and trumpet with lots of head shaking.



The Brolga Habitat Game

(This example is set for approximately 20+ participants)

Game Start:

- 8 Brolgas (4 pairs) **Red Party Hats**
- 4 Wetland Breeding Habitats **Green Party Hats**
- 2 Engineers **Blue Party Hats**
- 2 Foxes **Gold Party Hats**
- All Remaining participants are Brolga food

Position the *breeding habitats* in the four corners of the room. The food is scattered all over the room, some in the *habitats* and some in the centre of the room (an open paddock). Pairs of Brolgas move around the room feeding on the food (vegetation, frogs, snails and small insects). The breeding season begins and Brolga pairs find a habitat to make a nest and lay 2 eggs.

Two engineers come along and decide to drain one of the wetlands to put in a road – the habitat and food at this habitat die and the Brolgas breeding here fly away.

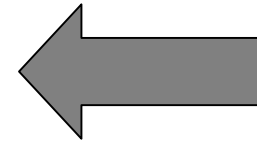
Two foxes come along and capture one Brolga each. Brolgas pair for life and as the original pair can no longer breed, the partner of these Brolgas fly away and become locally extinct.

Ask the students what else may affect the Brolgas?
Some suggestions are: accidental poisoning, collisions with powerlines or fences, erosion and salinity.

Brolgas:

Are Vulnerable to Extinction in Victoria

Play the **Brolga** habitat game and find out why!



Discuss why **HABITAT** is so important for the survival of the **Brolga**.





Brolga numbers have decreased in Victoria due to:

Loss of wetland habitat from:

**Livestock grazing
Vegetation change
Draining wetlands
Erosion damage**

Foxes

Accidental Poisoning

**Collisions with powerlines and
entanglement with fences**





What do you think
YOU can do to ensure
the **Brolga** remains in
Victoria for the
future?



Story compiled by Kathryn Goyen

For further enquires regarding biodiversity in agricultural landscapes contact:

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Or visit the **LandLearn** website at:

<http://landlearn.netc.net.au>

