## 4 KEY QUESTIONS TO IDENTIFY TURTLES

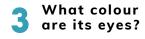
of the Bellinger and Kalang catchments

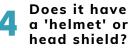
There are three freshwater turtles known from the Bellingen area. If you want to know which one you've seen, you can get a good idea by taking note of four things, none of which require you to pick the animal up.

## Where did vou see it?

- In the Kalang River.
- In the Bellinger River, including downstream of Lavenders Bridge at Bellingen.
- In creeks and dams
- On land, away from water, often crossing roads.

How long is its neck and head?









It's never recommended that you capture a turtle or pick it up, especially if it looks sick, but there is one more thing on the underside of the shell that can help tell these three turtles from each other...

Are there black lines along edges of the plates on the underside of the shell?



Eastern Long-necked Turtle





Murray River Turtle



Bellinger River Snapping Turtle

## Murray River Turtle

Eastern

Long-

necked

Turtle

Emydura macquarii

## Bellinger River Snapping Turtle

Critically Endangéred NSW & Commonwealth

- In the Bellinger River mostly upstream of Lavenders Bridge at Bellingen.
- In the Kalang River.
- Not usually seen on land unless baskina or laying eggs and even then it will remain close to the water.

• In the Bellinger River

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Neck is up to 60% of the length of the shell.







IF YOU FIND A SICK OR DEAD TURTLE, CALL ENVIROLINE ON (02) 6659 8200



Obvious cap of hard skin on top of head.