



# Look out for oblong turtles

A MURDOCH University PhD student is calling on members of the public to record sightings of wild oblong turtles to help preserve the species.

Caitlin Bartholomaeus said there had been very little research into the turtle, a native freshwater species, and that it was important to understand how the reptile was reacting to urban development and a changing climate to survive.

People who live close to or who visit the turtles' habitat in wetlands around Cockburn can log any sightings with the Turtle Watch hotline and the ClimateWatch website.

Ms Bartholomaeus and her team want to know the location of the turtle, its size, behaviour and the time and date seen.

They also want to know the locations of any dead turtles and nests with eggs.



**Caitlin Bartholomaeus**  
Picture: Shino Hamada

"Members of the public can help us to increase monitoring levels by logging their sightings of turtles anytime, anywhere and in any condition," she said.

Oblong turtles have very long necks and the adult shell can be 30-40cm long, ranging in colour from brown to black.

You can log sightings of turtles, nests and eggs on [www.climatewatch.org.au](http://www.climatewatch.org.au) or by phoning the Wetlands Education Centre on 9417 8460.