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Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis – additional information to Submission 172

The [Australasian Bat Society, Inc.](http://ausbats.org.au) (ABS) is pleased to have the opportunity to add to its submission to the *Parliamentary inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis* (Submission 172).

We note that since our submission on 21 September 2018, the Spectacled Flying-fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*) was uplisted from Vulnerable to Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The threat status the Spectacled Flying-fox was increased following Conservation Advice from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee demonstrating a rapid population decline of around 50 percent between 2005 and 2014, without signs of improvements as threats are ongoing and not fully understood ([TSSC, 2019](#)). The decline is expected to be even more severe at present as the Conservation Advice was based on data from before the extreme heat event in Queensland in November 2018 during which a further ~30 percent (~23,000 individuals) was lost (e.g., [Humane Society International, 2018](#); [ABC News, 2018](#)).

We implore the Department of Environment and Energy to urgently enact improved protection of the Spectacled Flying-fox, and other threatened species in decline. Specifically, we ask that the *Referral guideline for management actions in Grey-headed and Spectacled Flying-fox camps* ([Department of the Environment, 2015](#)) is revised as a matter of priority to reflect the recent uplisting, and we urge the Minister to suspend all Spectacled Flying-fox dispersals until such revision has been completed.

The Spectacled Flying-fox provides just one salient example of the very real and worrying declines of our native fauna, and of the inadequacy of current policies and legislation for curbing species' trajectories away from extinction. For further examples and recommendations, we kindly refer you to our full submission (Submission 172).

We thank the Department of the Environment and Energy for considering our suggestions and we look forward to the finalised review.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Justin A. Welbergen
President, Australasian Bat Society, Inc.