



Conservation  
Volunteers  
Australia

# Australia en Danger.

**Discussion Paper:**

**An analysis of the performance of Australia's flora and fauna since the launch of the Federal Government's Nature Positive and Threatened Species Action Plans.**

Conservation Volunteers Australia

May 2024

**Provocate**



## State of the Environment

**“We’ve got thousands of volunteers out there, every weekend, planting trees, collecting rubbish, and cleaning up their local creek... They just need a government that cares as much as they do.”**

*Source: Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek, 2022, National Press Club Speech on release of 2021 State of Environment Report.*

# Electionomic™ Impact: Content Summary.

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## Record 2100+ Threatened Species in 2024

The Commonwealth EPBC Act Threatened Species List has grown from 1951 to 2106 in 2yrs since ALP Fed Gov elected – the vast majority endangered.



## +50% 'Critically Endangered' Animal Increase

50% increase in 'critically endangered' animals since NPP & TSAP launch undermines Gov claim listings growth allows proactive protections.



## Half Threatened Species Live in Urban Areas

Australia's human housing crisis will make protecting wildlife habitats harder as public, policy and political pressure for urban homes grows next decade.



## More Animals Listed Past 2yrs Than Previous 9

This equates to a net increase of 105 fauna species since ALP Fed Gov first elected (May22), more than entire 9yrs (103) of previous LNP Fed Gov (Sep13-May22).



## Saving Native Species Not a Fed Priority

Species prioritised for recovery remain flat at 110 since NPP & TSAP launch, key funding criteria for ALP Fed Gov's 'Saving Native Species' election promise.



## 10,000s Nature Volunteers Lost To Federal Cuts

25,000+ conservation volunteers have been lost since closure of AU's national marine plastics & nature disaster portal programs, with more predicted.



## Half Animal Listings Now Endangered

Total endangered animal listings hit record 56%, versus 49% when ALP Fed Gov launched Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec22).



## Conservation Law Reform Shelved

A new Federal EPA will proceed without promised conservation law enforcement reforms, as environment protection funding falls to <0.3% total budget spend.



## Community Action at Scale Solution Needed

The size and scale of Australia's threatened species problem requires scalable data-driven community action supported by a national evidence framework.

Source: Provocate® analysis of State of the Environment Reports 2011, 2016 and 2021 cross referenced against Cwith EPBC Act Fauna and Flora Listings, incl. Oct 2023.



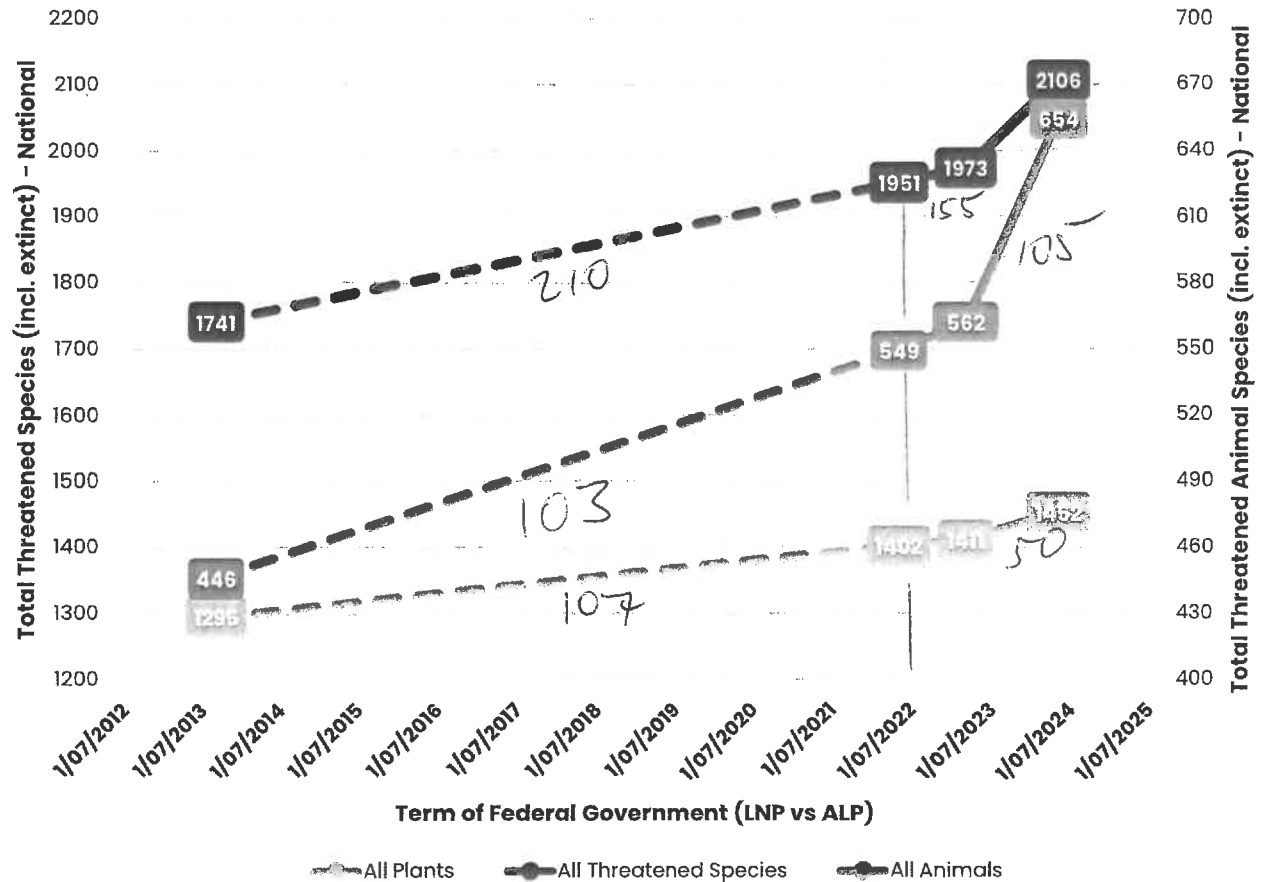
# Electionomic™ Insight: Threatened Species.

**Claim:** The Albanese Labor (ALP) Federal Government came to power in May 2022 promising an ambitious environmental agenda. This included its signature 'Saving Native Species' (\$224m) to "help arrest species decline and restore populations of endangered plants and animals".

**Finding:** The two years since the Albanese ALP Government came to power has seen a severe increase in threatened species, with more growth in animal (fauna) listings than the previous Coalition (LNP) Government's nine years in office. While simultaneously deferring and delaying funding of key nature election commitments; shelving conservation law reform, (and failing to declare these species increases); and underinvesting in environment protection and nature conservation funding at less-than 0.3% and 0.1% of total Federal Budget spend, despite \$30 billion in surpluses.

**Question:** Is the Federal Government's implementation in line with policy settings to ensure we can 'arrest species decline'?

**Figure 1: CwIth Threatened Species Listings by Term of Federal Government: LNP (Sep 2013 – May 2022) vs ALP (May 2022 – May 2024), incl. ALP's Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec 2022)**



Source: Provocate® analysis of CwIth EPBC Act Fauna and Flora Listings at Sep 2013, May 2022, Oct-Dec-2022 (Same Datapoint) and May 2024.

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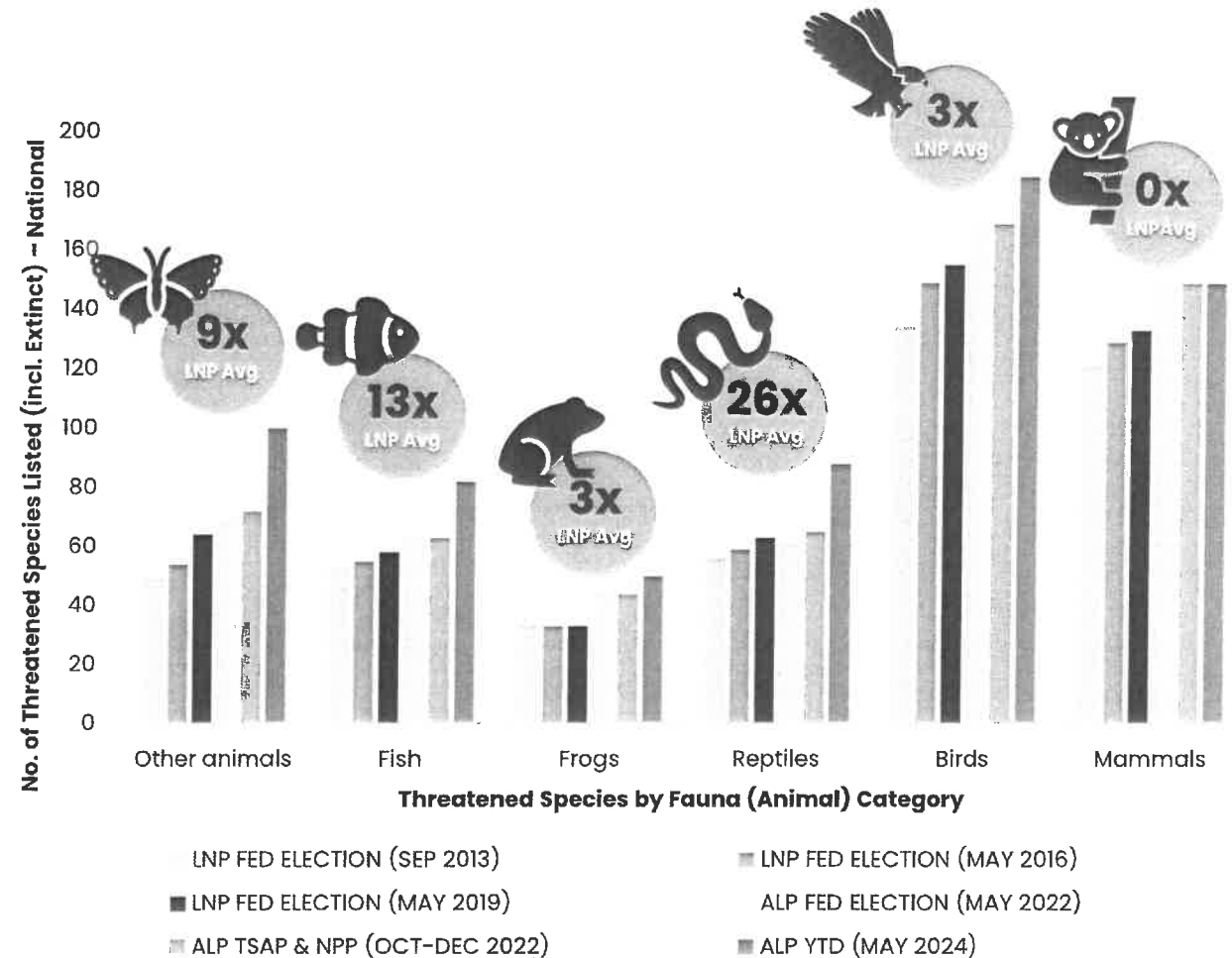
## Electionomic™ Insight: Animal Species.

**Claim:** Labor declared the “environment back under the Albanese Government”, including an overarching Threatened Species Action Plan (2022-2032) to prioritise funding under its \$224 million ‘Saving Native Species’ election promise in its first Federal Budget (October 2022).

**Finding:** Figure 1 shows a net increase of 133 (+7%) threatened animal (92;+16%) and plant (41;+3%) species since the Albanese Labor Government launched its Nature Positive and Threatened Species Action Plans in the October FY2022-23 Budget. Figure 2 shows this includes severe increases in reptiles (+35%), fish (30%) and invertebrates (+39%) over the same period, which are 26, 13 and 9 times higher than the annual growth rate recorded under the LNP.

**Question:** Is the “environment back under the Albanese (ALP) Government” after threatened species increases outstripped the former LNP Government five-to-one on average?

**Figure 2: Increase in Threatened Species By Animal Category**  
By Federal Government Term: LNP (2013–2022) vs ALP (2022–2024), incl. performance since introduction of Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct–Dec 2022)



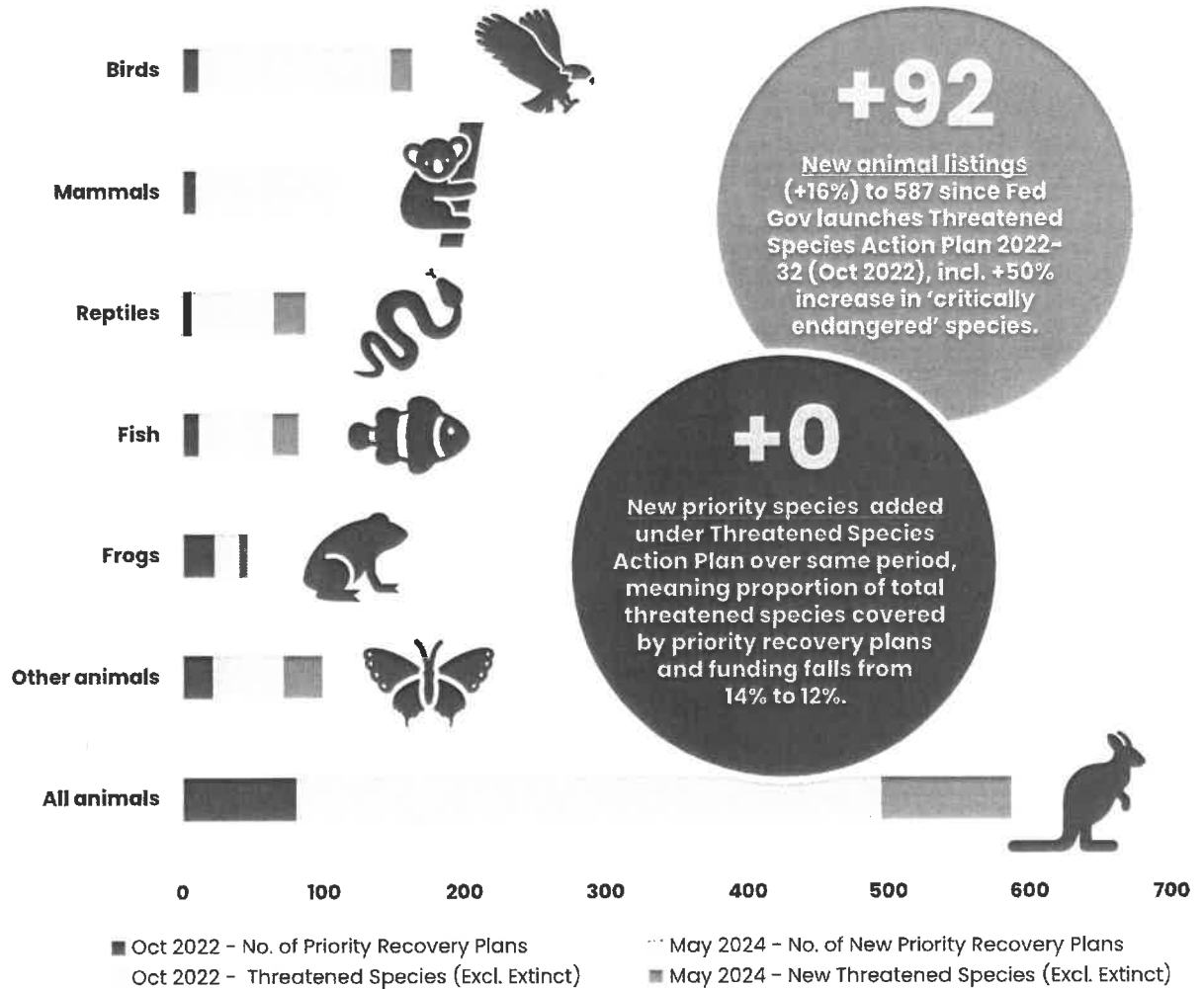
## Electionomic™ Insight: Priority Species.

**Claim:** The Albanese ALP Government announced it would increase species targeted for priority recovery from 100 to 110 to “clear the backlog of overdue recovery plans – which is important to ... stop extinctions” under its ‘Saving Native Species’ promise.

**Finding:** The increase in new threatened species listings (133) the past two years has outstripped the number of ‘priority’ species (110), which has remained flat, despite surge of endangered additions. The proportion of animal threatened species with a priority recovery plan fell from 14% to 12%, while plants remain flat at 2%. This will drop further the next 12 months, with no new priority species announced in the FY2024-25 Federal Budget, despite another wave of threatened species listing decisions imminent (due 30 April 2024).

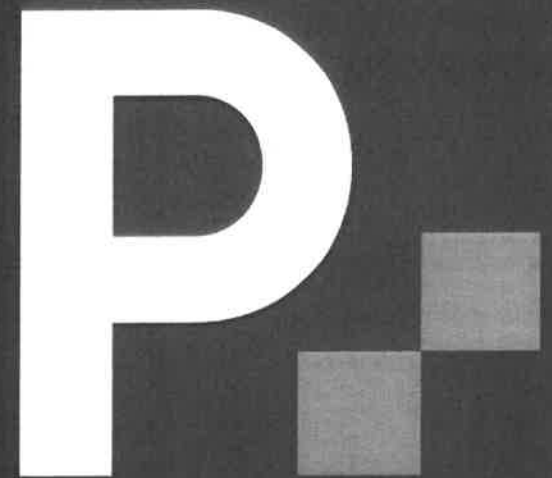
**Question:** How will the Government prevent further decline in these 133 additional species, given a ‘priority’ classification is key to accessing ‘Saving Native Species’ funding?

**Figure 3: Proportion of Threatened Species Covered by Federal Priority Plans Since Launch of Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec 2022) vs YTD (May 2024)**



# Part II: Electionomic™ Informed

Filling critical knowledge gaps in public, policy, political and partner conversations through informed contributions to data sharing.



# BUILD BACK NATURE VISIT [MyNatureBlock.org](https://MyNatureBlock.org)



## 'Backyard solutions' to national and global problems

Conservation Volunteers Australia has proactively invested in new technology to help Australians provide urban species access to dedicated civilian refuges that fill missing links in critical city habitat corridors via data-driven collective community action. Nature Blocks has been modelled on CVA's successful tripartite data-collection and sharing #SeatoSource partnership with the Federal Government and Australia's Commonwealth Scientific Research and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to measure and map the impacts of marine plastics as part of their mission to reduce plastic lost to the environment by 80% by 2030. This partnership has already helped demonstrate positive impacts from the Federal Government's business-led voluntary ban on polystyrene on the environment. CVA is determined to use this model to ensure Nature Block's data-driven, people-powered approach can support Australians, businesses – and their governments – to demonstrate individual actions can make a measurable local, national and global difference.





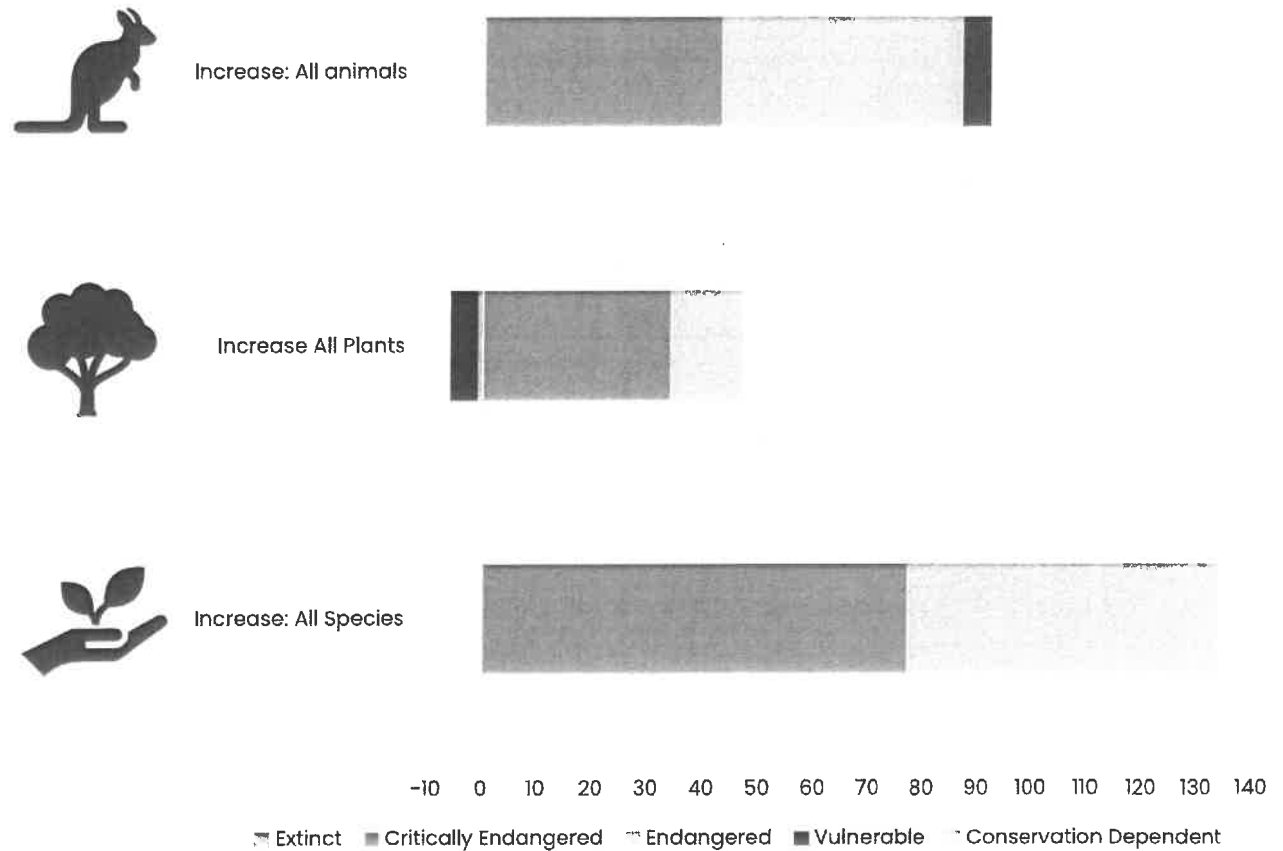
## Electionomic™ Insight: Endangered Species.

**Claim:** "These listings show us that the previous approach has not been working. The previous government had their head in the sand about the crisis in our environment. The launch of the Action Plan will set us on a stronger path for the future." - Albanese ALP Government (Oct 2022).

**Finding:** Of the 133 net increase in threatened species listings since the launch of the Federal Government's TSAP and NPP, 77 (58%) were 'critically endangered' – the last step before extinction in the wild. This includes nearly half (43) of 92 animals listed – and three-quarters (34) of 41 plant listings. This increases to 87 of 92 animals when 'endangered' listings are also added. In contrast, there was only -1 extinctions overall, a plant. That's lower than the -3 extinctions in the previous LNP Government's first two years.

**Question:** Can governments still legitimately claim such significant increases in threatened species listings are a 'positive', 'proactive', or 'preventative' step, when most of rapid growth in recent years is in endangered categories?

**Figure 4: Net Increase in Threatened Species by Kingdoms & Categories Since Launch of Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec 2022) vs YTD (May 2024)**



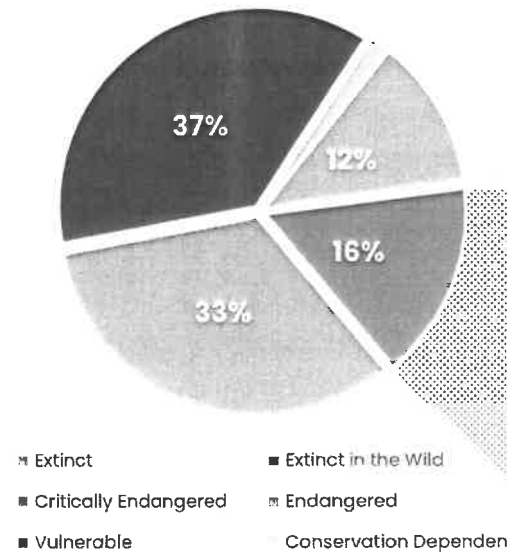
## Electionomic™ Insight: Critical Species.

**Claim:** The TSAP sits alongside the Albanese Labor Government's 'Nature Positive Plan' (December 2022), which was also funded in their first FY2022-23 (Oct) Budget. The NPP included "stronger laws designed to repair nature, to protect precious plants, animals and places" and a new Federal Environment Protection Agency to enforce them.

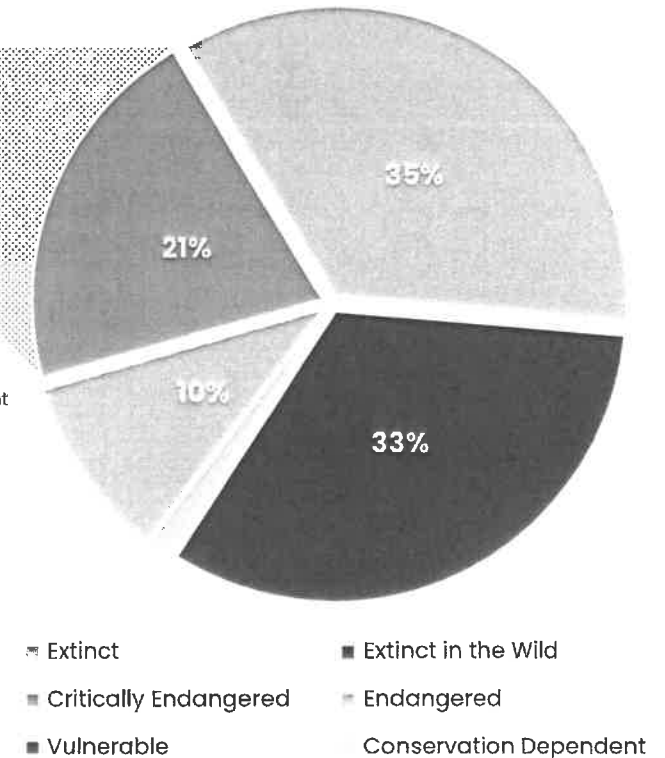
**Finding:** 'Critically endangered' and endangered animal species listings have increased about 50% and 25% respectively since the launch of the TSAP and NPP. The proportion of 'critically endangered' animals on the Threatened Species List increased from 16% to one-in-five (21%) over the same period. Over half (56%) of all threatened species are now officially 'endangered' in some way.

**Question:** Is waiting for a legally-binding threatened species listing to protect Australia's iconic wildlife and habitat too late and risking prioritising a 'palliative care' policy for nature?

**Figure 5a: Threatened Animal Species at Launch of Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec 2022)**



**Figure 5b: Threatened Animal Species YTD (May 2024)**



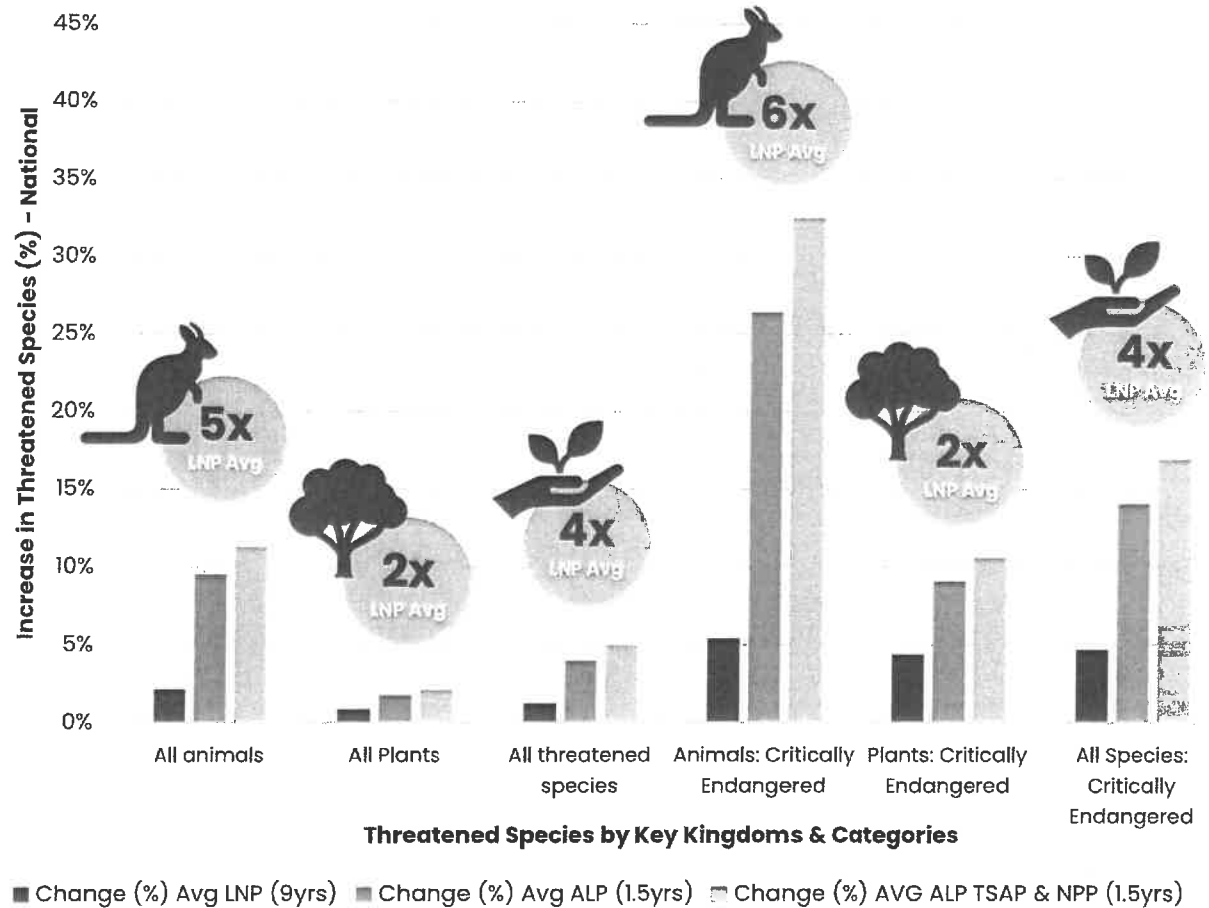
## Electionomic™ Insight: Transparency.

**Claim:** In April 2024, the Albanese ALP Government announced it would introduce its Federal EPA without promised conservation law reforms. This is despite earlier claiming these “stronger laws” would “ensure decisions made will protect our threatened species”.

**Finding:** Threatened species listings have grown at quadruple the rate of the previous Coalition Government since the Albanese ALP Government announced its Nature Positive Plan. This includes a six-fold increase in critically endangered animals. These government figures were available, but not declared, by the Albanese ALP Government when shelving conservation law reforms. This is inconsistent with ALP claims the NPP would create greater transparency, so “governments can't hide the truth about the Australian environment, like the last Liberal Government”.

**Question:** Should there be an independent review into the decision to defer promised Federal environment protection law reforms?

**Figure 6: Average Net Increase in Federal Threatened Species Listings (%) by Term of Government (LNP vs ALP), incl. ALP's Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec 2022)**



## Electionomic™ Insight: Integrity.

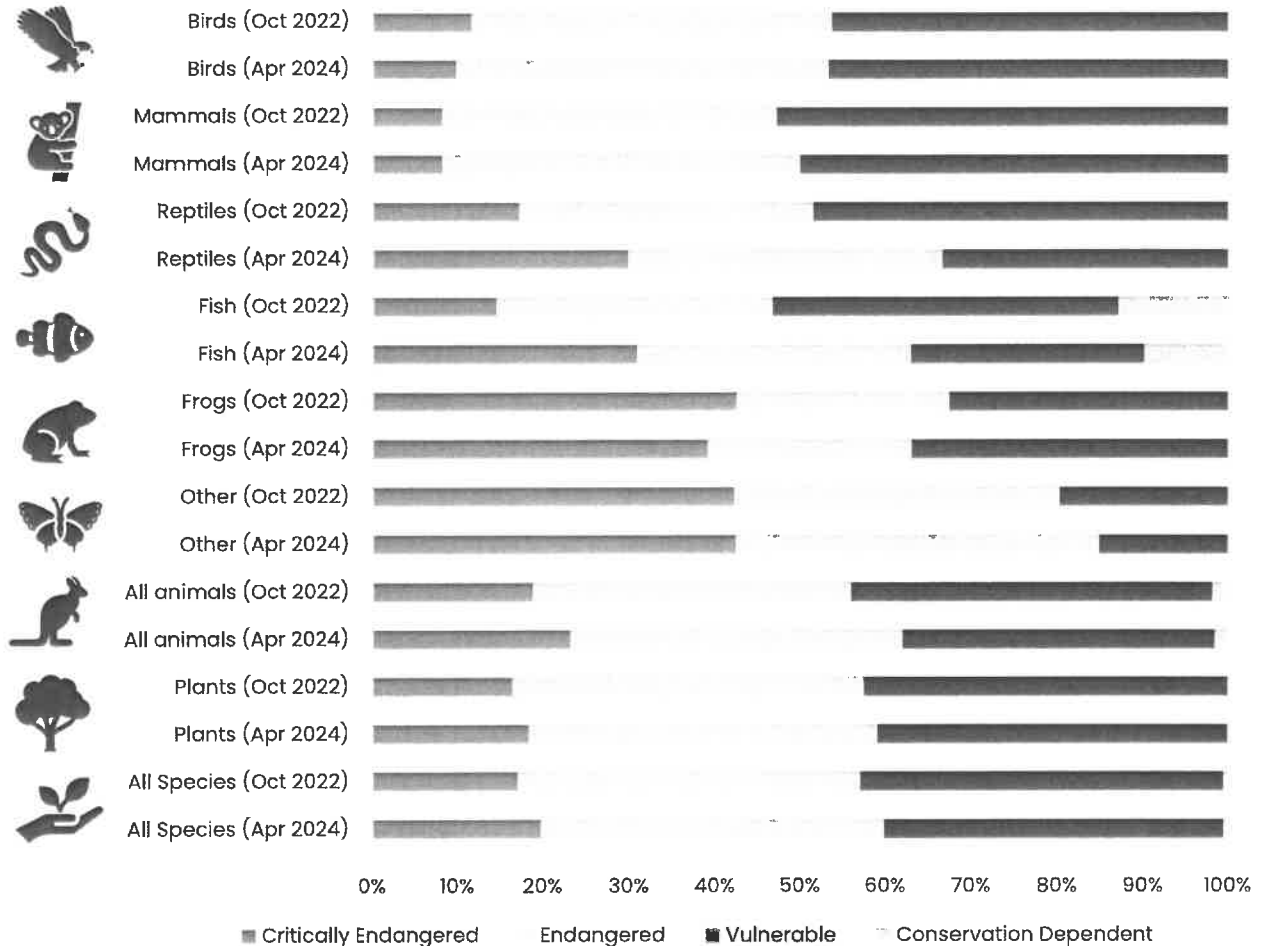
**Claim:** "In our first year in office, the Albanese Labor Government has begun to turn the tide of nature destruction," ALP FY2023-24 Budget.

**Finding:** In addition to deferring the introduction of conservation law reforms, the Albanese ALP Government also deferred Labor's \$90 million 'Landcare Rangers' election commitment until 2027-28, alongside a 9-month delay in announcing its 'priority species' grant funding under Labor's 'Saving Native Species' election promise. This is reflective of other Ministerial decisions, such as quietly defunding the nation's marine plastic (\$5m) and natural disaster volunteer (\$2.5m) programs, which had 25,000+ conservation volunteers signed up between them. Funds to renew these programs were diverted to Labor's 'Saving Native Species' election promise. These policy decisions are also inconsistent with government claims natural disasters and development are to blame for many new listings.

**Question:** Are the above policy reform and funding deferrals consistent with 'turning the tide on nature destruction, particularly with such severe increases in endangered species?



**Figure 7: Proportion of Threatened Species by Risk Level:  
Launch of Threatened Species Action Plan (Oct 2022) vs YTD (Apr 2024)**



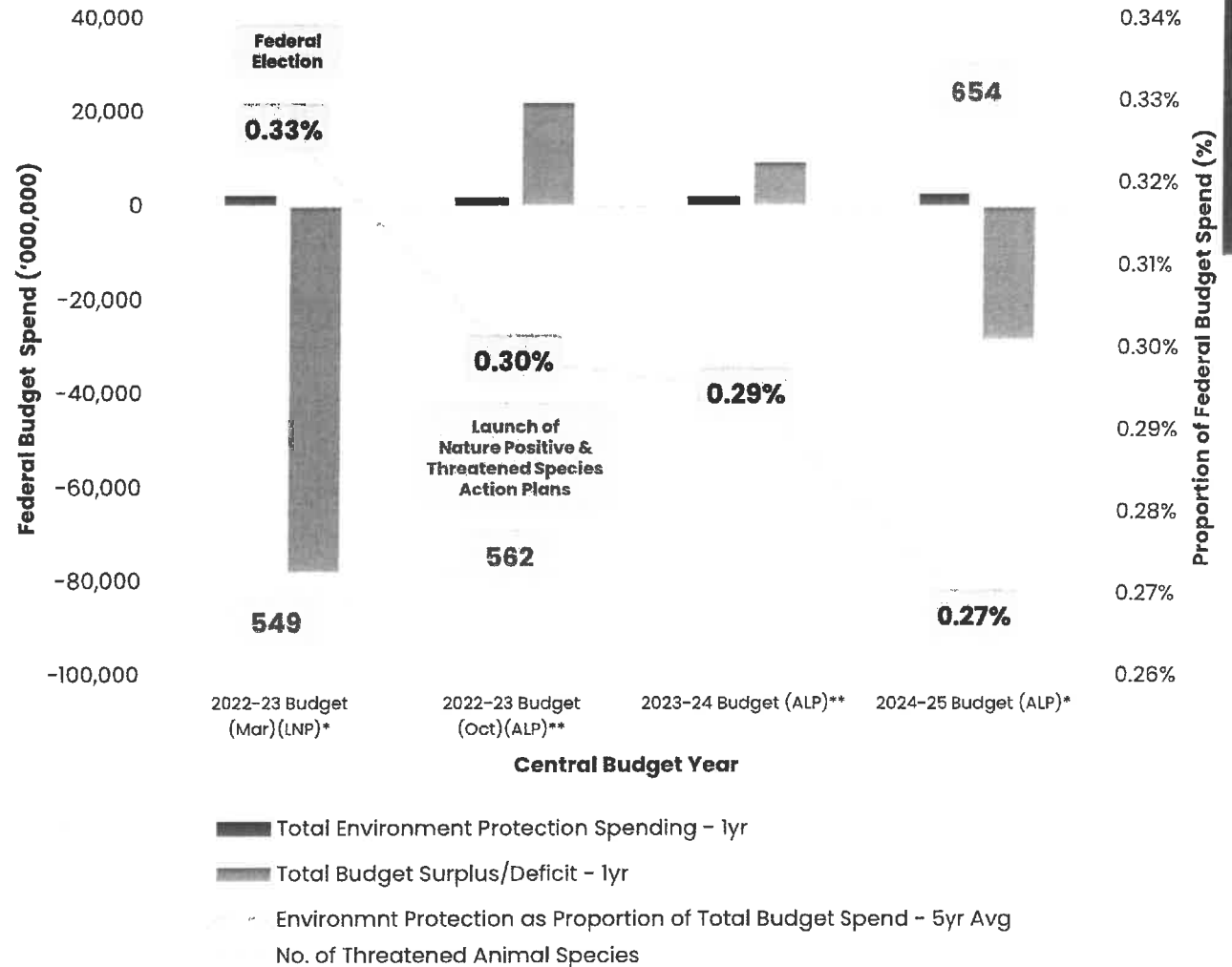
## Electionomic™ Insight: Priorities.

**Claim:** "The (Albanese ALP) Government is investing in a better future for our environment after almost a decade of neglect under the Liberals and Nationals" – ALP FY2022-23 Budget.

**Finding:** The recently announced Federal Budget surplus (\$9.3b) for 2023-24 quadrupled the amount spent on overall environment protection funding (\$2.0b) – and 15 times core spending on core conservation actions in the community (\$0.6b) – despite a 50% increase in critically endangered animal species and priority recovery plans remaining flat over the same period. While they consistently continue to make up less-than 0.3% and 0.1% of total Federal Budget spend respectively, creating a perception the Federal Government has prioritised achieving short-term budget savings over saving native species, despite the Albanese Labor Government's election promise.

**Question:** How does the Federal Government plan to balance the required funding increase to Saving Native Species with longer-term Budget deficits from this year (FY2024-25)?

**Figure 8: Federal Budget Surplus/Deficit vs Environment Protection Funding & Increases in Threatened Animal Species.**



Source: Provocate® Electionomic™ analysis of FY2024-25 Federal Budget Paper 1 cross-referenced w/ Cwith EPBC Act Fauna Listings, incl. May 2022, Oct-Dec 2022 and May 2024.



## Electionomic™ Insight: Solutions.

**Claim:** "We've got thousands of volunteers out there, every weekend, planting trees, collecting rubbish, and cleaning up their local creek... They just need a government that cares as much as they do." – ALP Federal Environment Minister.

**Finding:** Many 'traditional' conservation volunteering bodies, like CVA, have invested heavily in building their capabilities as modern, data-driven, people-powered organisations helping communities measure their impact against local, national and global targets. They also bring the scalability to deliver the bulk volume of data collection and measurement needed to cost-effectively meet government goals.

**Solution:** Turbocharging nature repair delivery and data collection via a common national framework citizen actions and science that would promote similar policy priorities and measurement standards, while encouraging seamless transition and upscaling of evidence-based insights, impacts and investments across government, private and community projects.

# Proven Model That Works

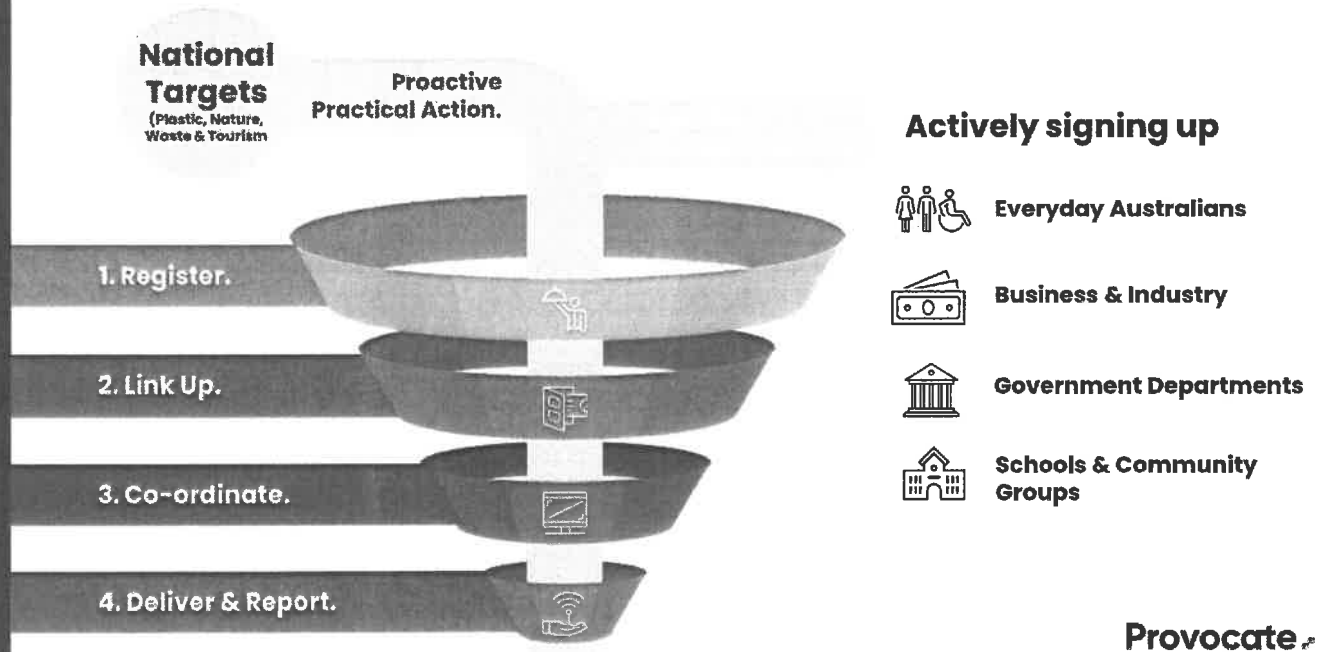


Conservation Volunteers Australia has been around for 40 years and partnered with the Federal Government on some of its biggest nature, environment and jobs programs during that time.

But there's much more that can be done – and key to that is supporting local action and collaborating with national organisations to maximise the scale and impact of shared policy objectives.

This includes millions of supervised volunteer hours delivered on projects taking on some of the most critical – and difficult – environmental challenges, many undesirable to business and profit-making entities.

Proactively building a consortium of local and national stakeholders through a common framework enables support to both existing programs and allows for scalability



# Electionomic™ Informed:

## Table 1. All Species Increases Since Nature Positive & TS Action Plans.

**Table 1a. Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec 2022)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	22	0	17	62	68	0	169
Mammals	39	0	9	43	58	0	149
Reptiles	1	0	11	22	31	0	65
Fish	0	1	9	20	25	8	63
Frogs	4	0	17	10	13	0	44
Other animals	1	0	30	27	14	0	72
All animals	67	1	93	184	209	8	562
Plants	37		226	564	584		1411
All TS	104	1	319	748	793	8	1973

**Table 1b. FY2024-25 Federal Budget (May 2024)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	22		16	71	76		185
Mammals	39		9	46	55		149
Reptiles	1		26	32	29		88
Fish		1	25	26	22	8	82
Frogs	4		18	11	17		50
Other animals	1		42	42	15		100
All animals	67	1	136	228	214	8	654
Plants	36		260	577	579		1452
All TS	103	1	396	805	793	8	2106

**Table 1c. FY2024-25 Change (No.)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	0	0	-1	9	8	0	16
Mammals	0	0	0	3	-3	0	0
Reptiles	0	0	15	10	-2	0	23
Fish	0	0	16	6	-3	0	19
Frogs	0	0	1	1	4	0	6
Other animals	0	0	12	15	1	0	28
All animals	0	0	43	44	5	0	92
Plants	-1	0	34	13	-5	0	41
All TS	-1	0	77	57	0	0	133

**Table 1d. FY2024-25 Change (%)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	0%	0%	-6%	15%	12%	0%	9%
Mammals	0%	0%	0%	7%	-5%	0%	0%
Reptiles	0%	0%	136%	45%	-6%	0%	35%
Fish	0%	0%	178%	30%	-12%	0%	30%
Frogs	0%	0%	6%	10%	31%	0%	14%
Other animals	0%	0%	40%	56%	7%	0%	39%
All animals	0%	0%	46%	24%	2%	0%	16%
Plants	-3%	0%	15%	2%	-1%	0%	3%
All TS	-1%	0%	24%	8%	0%	0%	7%

Key	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD
Threatened Species Classification	Extinct	Extinct in Wild	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Conservation Dependent

# Electionomic™ Informed:

## Table 2. All Species Since Federal Elections.

**Table 2a. 2013 Election (Sep 2013)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	23		7	44	60		134
Mammals	27		4	35	55		121
Reptiles			4	16	36		56
Fish		1	6	16	24	6	53
Frogs	4		5	14	10		33
Other animals	1		21	16	11		49
All animals	55	1	47	141	196	6	446
Plants	39		136	528	592		1295
All TS	94	1	183	669	788	6	1741

**Table 2b. 2022 Election (May 2022)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	22	0	17	60	68	0	167
Mammals	39	0	9	42	57	0	147
Reptiles	1	0	9	20	31	0	61
Fish	0	1	8	20	25	8	62
Frogs	4	0	17	10	13	0	44
Other animals	1	0	29	24	14	0	68
All animals	67	1	89	176	208	8	549
Plants	37		220	559	586		1402
All TS	104	1	309	735	794	8	1951

**Table 2c. Nature Positive & Threatened Species Action Plans (Oct-Dec 2022)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	22		17	62	68		169
Mammals	39		9	43	58		149
Reptiles	1		11	22	31		65
Fish		1	9	20	25	8	63
Frogs	4		17	10	13		44
Other animals	1		30	27	14		72
All animals	67	1	93	184	209	8	562
Plants	37		226	564	584		1411
All TS	104	1	319	748	793	8	1973

**Table 2d. Federal Budget FY2024-25 (May 2024)**

Organism	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD	TOTAL
Birds	22		16	71	76		185
Mammals	39		9	46	55		149
Reptiles	1		26	32	29		88
Fish		1	25	26	22	8	82
Frogs	4		18	11	17		50
Other animals	1		42	42	15		100
All animals	67	1	136	228	214	8	654
Plants	36		260	577	579		1452
All TS	103	1	396	805	793	8	2106

Key	EXT	ETXIW	CEND	END	VUN	CD
Threatened Species Classification	Extinct	Extinct in Wild	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Conservation Dependent

Source: Provocate® analysis of Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-32 & Nature Positive Plan (same data) cross referenced against CwIth EPBC Act Fauna and Flora Listings.



# Electionomic™ Informed:

## Table 3. Threatened Species Increases by Federal Gov Term.

Change	Fed Gov By Party Term	Organism	Extinct	Extinct in the Wild	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Conservation Dependent	Total	Total (excl. Extinct)
Total (No.)	ALP (May2022 – May2024)	All Animals	0	0	47	52	6	0	105	106
		All Plants	-1	0	40	18	-7	0	50	51
		All Species	-1	0	87	70	-1	0	155	157
	LNP (Sep2013 – May2022)	All Animals	12	0	42	35	12	2	103	91
		All Plants	-2	0	84	31	-6	0	107	109
		All Species	10	0	126	66	6	2	210	200
Total (%)	ALP (May2022 – May2024)	All Animals	0%	0%	53%	30%	3%	0%	19%	22%
		All Plants	-3%	0%	18%	3%	-1%	0%	4%	4%
		All Species	-1%	0%	28%	10%	0%	0%	8%	9%
	LNP (Sep2013 – May2022)	All Animals	18%	0%	47%	20%	6%	25%	19%	19%
		All Plants	-5%	0%	38%	6%	-1%	0%	8%	8%
		All Species	10%	0%	41%	9%	1%	25%	11%	11%
Annual Average (%)	ALP (May2022 – May2024)	All Animals	0%	0%	26%	15%	1%	0%	10%	11%
		All Plants	-1%	0%	9%	2%	-1%	0%	2%	2%
		All Species	0%	0%	14%	5%	0%	0%	4%	4%
	LNP (Sep2013 – May2022)	All animals	2%	0%	5%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%
		Plants	-1%	0%	4%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
		All Species	1%	0%	5%	1%	0%	3%	1%	1%
ALP vs LNP	All animals	-	-	5	6	2	-	4	5	
	Plants	2.2	-	2	3	5	-	2	2	
	All Species	- 0.4	-	3	5	-1	-	3	3	



## Contacts:

To provide feedback or seek further briefings:

### Conservation Volunteers:

Stephen McDonald.

### Contact:

0458 700 006.

[Smcdonald@cva.org.au](mailto:Smcdonald@cva.org.au)

### Provocate®:

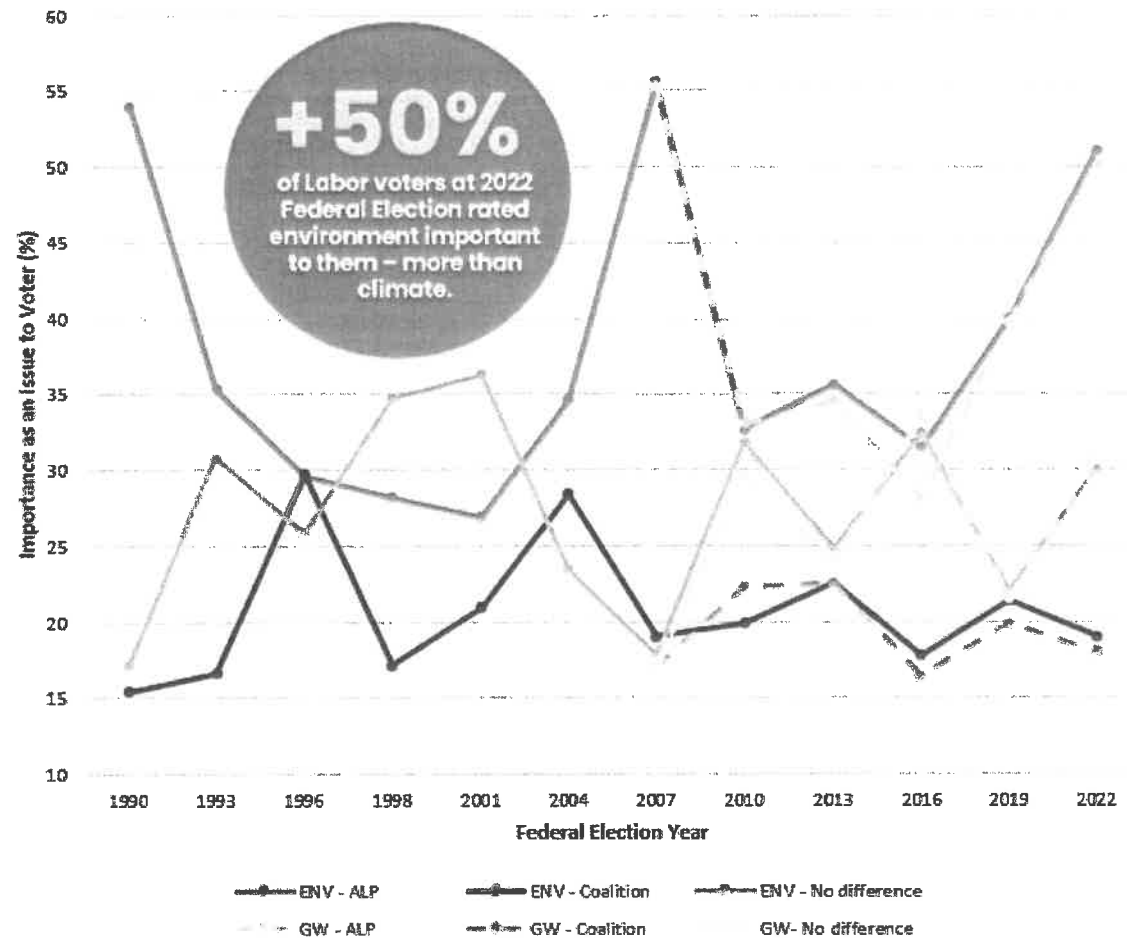
Troy Billsborough.

### Contact:

0427 063 150.

[Troy.Billsborough@provocate.com.au](mailto:Troy.Billsborough@provocate.com.au)

## Voter Attitudes: Environment vs Climate Change (Global Warming) Past 20 Federal Elections



Source: Provocate® Electionomics™ Australian National University, Federal Election Study 2019 and 2022 editions, as well as long-term trends 2022.





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