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12 August 2019

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Correspondence via email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretariat,

Re: Australia's faunal extinction crisis

Australian Wildlife Society is dedicated to the conservation of Australian wildlife – fauna, and flora – in all its forms through national environmental education programs and advocacy. We are writing to express our concern about the extinction rate of Australia's fauna species.

We would like to particularly highlight our concerns regarding the continued reduction of habitat for all native species and call for a national effort to reduce further habitat destruction. Without suitable habitat, our native species are placed at increased risk of extinction. Australia already has a very poor track record in saving species from extinction. We have already seen many of our unique species become extinct through habitat loss, competition and predation from introduced feral animals, changed fire regimes and other human-induced impacts. With the advent of climate change, it will pose increased risk to our native animal and plant populations and we will see a decrease in already vulnerable species as well as species currently regarded as least concern.

We would, therefore, like to provide our support for expanding the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development as much stronger laws are clearly required to support our native species. Further, we support all efforts to enhance environmental protection and biodiversity conservation through a revised Act including a National EPA to ensure vulnerable ecological communities are protected, land clearing and greenhouse gas emissions are significantly reduced, and water resources are protected. We also lend our support to the development of a National Reserve System to enhance habitat protection for all species.

Australia has already lost far too many unique species, and we do not want to stand by and see animals such as the iconic koala, wombat, echidna, platypus, Bellingen River snapping turtle, swift parrot and grey nurse shark, or iconic plants such as the wattle, Stuart's desert pea or Mongarlow mallee become extinct. The Australian Wildlife Society would appreciate your strong support for this action and your urgent reply.

Yours sincerely



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