

1st August 2018

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Senate Standing Committees on  
Environment and Communications  
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## SUBMISSION AUSTRALIA'S FAUNAL EXTINCTION CRISIS

Dear Sirs and Mesdames  
(Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications)

The Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association Inc (BIEPA) is proud to be celebrating 40 years of *Caring for our special habitat and its residents* on Bribie Island and surrounds (Ramsar and CMS protected wetlands, freshwater lagoons and aquifers, Moreton Bay Marine Park and Pumicestone Passage). The BIEPA Membership is ~150 with a broad range of interested parties receiving BIEPA News

The WELCOME sign to Bribie Island announces to visitors (and residents) that Bribie Island is a protected **SANCTUARY FOR FAUNA AND FLORA**.

Please see the BIEPA web site for more information, in particular, **BIEPA News** editions archived here: <http://bribieislandenvironmentprotection.org.au/newsletters/>

BIEPA is pleased to see that attention is being given to the very real crisis of Australia's fauna population declines and the failures of our environmental laws to prevent it continuing. We are encouraging all interested people to get a submission in to this important inquiry.

Australia's precious fauna have been reducing in number for decades. The federal government's most recent State of the Environment report concluded that Australia's biodiversity had declined further since the last report in 2011 and recommended that new approaches were needed to prevent continued species declines. BIEPA is most concerned that the 2017 Report found a number of key constraints on management effectiveness in Australia. BIEPA recommends that

*40 years Caring for our special habitat and its residents*

**Australia's iconic and fragile flora and fauna (terrestrial and marine) be treated as economic "assets" and must be invested in, protected and conserved for the "common wealth" and health of present and future generations. BIEPA recommends the Senate Inquiry address these constraints and serious inadequacies, which are not restricted to but include the following:**

- o 'lack of an overarching national policy that establishes a clear vision for the protection and sustainable management of Australia's environment to the year 2050, which is supported by**
- o specific action programs and policy to preserve and, where necessary, restore natural capital and our unique environments, taking into account the need to adapt to climate change**
- o complementary policy and strengthened legislative frameworks at the national, state and territory levels**
- o efficient, collaborative and complementary planning and decision-making processes across all levels of government, with clear lines of accountability**
- o poor collaboration and coordination of policies, decisions and management arrangements across sectors and between managers (public and private)**
- o a lack of follow-through from policy to action**
- o inadequacy of data and long-term monitoring, which interferes with our ability to apply effective policy and management, and establish adequate early warning of threats. For example, our understanding of even the most iconic and well-known species in Australia is often patchy, and sufficient knowledge of ecosystem processes that maintain the 99 per cent of species that account for Australia's biodiversity is missing**
- o insufficient resources for environmental management and restoration - Recognising that population growth be managed to relieve and minimise pressures on natural assets, and ecosystem services within the natural environment.**
- o inadequate understanding and capacity to identify and measure cumulative impacts, which reduces the potential for coordinated approaches to their management.'**

**We trust the Inquiry's recommendations will meet the expectations of not only BIEPA, but all those Australians who are most concerned about the welfare and health of the Nation's natural assets, environment and ecosystem services.**

Your sincerely

**Diane Oxenford  
President  
For BIEPA Management Committee**