

Submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry into the effectiveness of threatened species and ecological communities' protection in Australia

As coordinator of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network's *Focus on Fauna* project that surveyed wildlife in the Flowerdale/Strath Creek district of Victoria following the Black Saturday fires, I have experienced first-hand the extensive loss of wildlife habitat and the precarious existence of many of our native animals – not all of which are listed as protected species.

I deplore the current moves to pander to big business and developers by cutting so-called “green tape” and to hand over responsibility for threatened species to the States. I have seen the effectiveness of existing protections decreased by reductions in funding for agency staff, the termination of the Murray-Darling Basin Native Fish Strategy, continued logging in Leadbeater's Possum habitat, attempted reintroduction of cattle into Victoria's High Country, the failure to prepare and carry out action plans for threatened species, and so on.

I urge the Committee to make recommendations that strengthen, not weaken, legislation on biodiversity, and ensure adequate funding for conservation programs and recovery action plans for threatened species.

This is my personal submission, not that of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network.