

December 22 2012

Dear Senators,

Re: Inquiry into the effectiveness of threatened species and ecological communities' protection in Australia

I wish to submit the following for your consideration.

(a) **Management of key threats to listed species and ecological communities;**
Issues relating to key threats to listed species include; logging; clear-fell and salvage, urban encroachment and ignorance when clearing for domestic building, roadside maintenance regimes and bush fire response.

(b) **Development and implementation of recovery plans;**

We must ensure that all activity within sensitive areas properly complies with the Commonwealth Recovery Plan and relevant Action Plans. This is of the utmost importance as these documents specifically relate to the ongoing work necessary to save and increase numbers of endangered species. I also believe in the importance of accountability for failure to implement an action statement or for failure of an implemented action statement to protect the threatened species.

(c) **Management of critical habitat across all land tenures; management must be based on the regard for habitat retention in critical areas.**

We have seen the ongoing destruction of rich bio-diverse Leadbeater Possum and *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* forest habitat in the central highlands at Toolangi in Victoria by both logging and fire. These two species exist in habitat under constant threat from activities listed in (a). Critical Habitat Management is confined to Listed Species and the process for listing is cumbersome.

(e) **Timeliness and risk management within the listings processes;**

There is no automatic process for a threatened species to be listed, or even assessed; assessment and listing depend on a person submitting an application. The process is drawn out, convoluted and discouraging to those in the community upon whose shoulders this task largely falls on

Change is necessary. In a radio interview on ABC Radio, Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke said, "The principle is really simple: when the law doesn't allow you to provide the level of environmental protection you believe you should, you change the law."

If we fail to changes and allow species such as the Leadbeater's Possum to follow the Thylacine and the Christmas Island Pipistrelle into extinction, we are all accountable, and the effect will be seen in the generations of our children and grandchildren. This future is in all our hands.

Yours sincerely

Bronwyn Baade