

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 83
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Recovery plan – forest dependent species
Hansard Page: 82
Question Date: 22 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: I could not find information on the listed species within forests. You did not seem to identify which are forest dependent species, as I said, or species from different environments.

Mr Richardson: We tend not to break them up by those categories. I could have a go on notice of giving you a list of species for which a recovery plan is required that are forest dwelling species.

Senator RICE: That would be very useful, thank you.

Mr Richardson: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Environment and Energy does not usually refer to or use the term “forest dependent species”, however the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources uses the term in their State of the Forests reporting.

As detailed in the response to supplementary written question 85, there are 534 threatened species listed under the EPBC Act for which a significant proportion (at least 50 per cent) of their mapped known and likely distribution occurs within Regional Forest Agreement areas across Australia. Note that an RFA area can cover a multitude of habitat types and land tenures apart from production forests. For example, the whole of Tasmania is designated an RFA area, including the urban areas, agricultural areas and estuaries.

The vast majority listed threatened species have a plan, either a Recovery Plan or a Conservation Advice, in place to guide recovery actions. These are published on the department’s website <http://www.environment.gov.au/cqi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>