

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 90
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: WA threatened species - Western Ringtail Possum, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 02 November 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Rice asked:

1. Given that the Western Ringtail Possum is among the species threatened by continued logging of Western Australian karri forests, that we know the habitats of these two species are being clear-felled, and that in 2014 the Western Ringtail Possum was listed as endangered by the WA State Environment Minister, is the Threatened Species Scientific Committee considering an endangered or critically endangered nomination for the Western Ringtail Possum?
2. Is the Threatened Species Scientific Committee considering an endangered or critically endangered nomination for the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo?

Answer:

1. The Western Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* is currently listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It has been identified as a priority for re-assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee in the assessment period which commenced on 1 October 2015. The species is undergoing assessment and the listing category has not yet been determined. The Threatened Species Scientific Committee prioritised the species based on *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012*, authored by John Woinarski, Andrew Burbidge and Peter Harrison, and published by the CSIRO in 2014. The action plan concluded that the Western Ringtail Possum is considered to be Critically Endangered.
2. The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* is currently listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is also considered to be Vulnerable in *The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2010*, authored by Stephen Garnett, Judit Szabo and Guy Dutson, and published by the CSIRO in 2011. The species has not been identified as a priority for re-assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.