

ONLINE SUBMISSION DETAILS

Date Received	27/03/2017
Organisation	Individual
Postcode	
How do you think we should improve the FFG Act?	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I believe that a reform of the current Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act is required as the current regulations do not provide ample protection of Victoria's threatened species.</p> <p>I agree with several of the proposed new regulations.</p> <p>I believe that including goals that relate to restoration is a good step to rehabilitating Victoria's environments (page 37). However, this goal must also be coupled with higher protection of the currently intact environments. This would include halting further native forest logging, and moving towards plantation.</p> <p>The incorporation of targets into the biodiversity plan is also an important step forward (page 37 and 49). This can be used as a motivation to improve the current biodiversity crisis.</p> <p>Introducing broader criteria for critical habitat protection (page 57) is another requirement which I agree with in the reformed plan. This would allow these important habitats to be protected from threats such as land clearing and logging. In addition to the proposal, however, critical habitat should also include habitat currently required for the survival of a species, habitat needed for a species to recover and increase their current population, and habitat required to mitigate climate change.</p> <p>I also agree with establishing new offences to those who damage threatened habitat or species (page 57). This cannot include, however, exemptions for private land or for businesses, such as logging.</p> <p>In addition to the above, I believe that removing vegetation illegally should be prosecuted under the FFG Act (page 63).</p> <p>There are also several points that I do not agree with.</p> <p>I don't believe that the new Act should not include the guarantee that flora and fauna will persist in Victoria in the wild (page 36). I believe that this step represents downgrading the government's commitment to protecting the unique flora and fauna that call this State home.</p> <p>I also don't believe that the requirement to create action plans should be removed (page 47 and 49). Action statements are currently the only binding action that the government must take to protect threatened species.</p> <p>Also, there is an implication that the current requirement for a permit to remove vegetation for construction will be removed. Roadside areas currently have some of the most important habitat in many areas.</p> <p>On top of the current proposals, I believe that there should be legislation included to protect natural areas, both public and privately owned, at a landscape level. This would ensure better protection and rehabilitation of land to connect landscapes through corridors.</p> <p>I also believe that the incorporating government funded 'feral free' zones (fenced areas or islands, removing pest animals) should be listed as a goal to protect flora and fauna.</p> <p>Thank you for taking your time to read my submission.</p>