

**ONLINE SUBMISSION DETAILS**

<b>Date Received</b>	23/03/2017
<b>Organisation</b>	Individual
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>How do you think we should improve the FFG Act?</b>	<p>Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia. Since European settlement 18 species of mammal, two birds, one snake, three types of fish and 51 plants have become extinct in Victoria. The laws that are supposed to protect nature are clearly not doing their job.</p> <p>Between a quarter and one third of all Victorian land-based plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals are considered threatened with extinction. We need to do more to reverse these trends and good nature protection laws are a critical part. The review is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Victoria to make much needed improvements to its main nature protection law.</p> <p>I'd like to see five key elements to be in new legislation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A fair go for threatened species by removing exemptions and special treatments for government departments and some industries.</li><li>2. Stronger stop and protect powers with clear requirements for the minister to intervene when important species or habitats are under threat.</li><li>3. A nature cop on the beat with stronger enforcement, real penalties and better monitoring.</li><li>4. Clear targets and timelines to direct investment and programs for threatened species. protection and recovery, across the whole state.</li><li>5. Giving community power to act, including capacity to determine regional plans and ability to initiate legal action to protect threatened species.</li></ol> <p>I am particularly concerned about the Leadbeater's Possum. To date the FFG Act has not provided adequate protection for this critically endangered species. The FFG Act should be reformed so the Leadbeater's Possum is properly protected. I want this special creature to still be around when my young children grow up and beyond.</p>