

4th March 2017

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 500
East Melbourne VIC 8002

Dear Minister,

**SUBMISSION ON THE REVIEW OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE ACT:
CONSULTATION PAPER**

We note that The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act's objective is that all of Victoria's native plants and animals be conserved. We applaud that objective and work hard, as individuals and as members of various environmental groups, to support conservation efforts.

Our submission with regards the Review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act asks that:

- a net gain principle for native vegetation offsets, which requires a reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a net gain, is enacted. Trade-offs which will affect biodiversity should be made clear and public.
- an enhanced range of compliance and enforcement measures is established under the Act and associated penalties for breaches of the Act to act as a sufficient deterrents. The Act should adopt a broader range of compliance tools, such as those commonly available in other modern legislation and there should be opportunity for the public to initiate enforcement action.
- a range of reforms are developed as soon as possible to improve the protection of critical habitat, including the provision criteria under the Act to define critical habitat
- to broaden the concept of critical habitat to include areas critical for maintaining ecological processes, such as habitat corridors and climate refuges.
- reporting to the public on conservation actions implemented under the Act and their biodiversity outcomes be available so that the effectiveness of the Act in achieving its objectives and the performance of government in achieving biodiversity outcomes can be evaluated.

Yours faithfully,

