

**ONLINE SUBMISSION DETAILS**

<b>Date Received</b>	28/03/2017
<b>Organisation</b>	Individual
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>How do you think we should improve the FFG Act?</b>	<p>Review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act Regulatory Strategy and Design Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</p> <p>Submission to the review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act</p> <p>I arrived in Victoria more than 35 years ago as a young adult, straight away in awe of the biodiversity still present in this part of the world, but also dismayed at the sometimes cavalier attitude to its degradation and loss. However the FFGA was a beacon of hope because it plainly stated the worth and specialness of biodiversity and its right to be protected. I have during that time made many contributions to protect and restore biodiversity, including as a long term active volunteer in revegetation.</p> <p>So it is a great opportunity to be able to have some input on the current proposed changes to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act.</p> <p>What is evident to me is that human affairs change, that is inevitable. Sometimes the changes seem favourable (like access to better health and education or new opportunities), sometimes the changes appear stressful for some community members (like the shift of timber use from native forests to plantation, displacing some local timber jobs). But somehow, it passes and keeps on changing.</p> <p>However extinction is forever; each extinction ultimately threaten the whole of the human species, not just some of its members, as we slowly lose the matrix that supports life. With the imminence and profound impact of Climate Change, this is even more relevant now to the human species.</p> <p>So it is concerning to notice what appears a watering down of the FFGA such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abandonment of 'the guarantee' Section 4.1</li></ul> <p>Yes, the objective of a Guarantee is ambitious and that is why it needs to be kept as a much needed moral compass. All species of flora and fauna in Victoria need to survive and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild; so that the human species can survive. No exemptions should be granted for particular interests groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dropping the requirement for action statements for all listed threatened species Section 4.3</li></ul> <p>These action statements provide much needed information and inspiration to all concerned as well as binding action to protect listed threatened species and support for enforcement.</p> <p>It is also clear that the proper enforcement of the Act requires an independent and well funded body that should use and promote a common assessment methodology such as the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) criteria as well as clear targets and timelines.</p> <p>In conclusion, this review of the current Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act needs to be the opportunity to strengthen our environmental protection so that extinction is strongly kept at bay.</p> <p>Much regards, </p>