

**ONLINE SUBMISSION DETAILS**

<b>Date Received</b>	25/03/2017
<b>Organisation</b>	Friends of Gippsland Bush Inc
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>How do you think we should improve the FFG Act?</b>	<p>REVIEW OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE ACT 1988 Consultation Paper</p> <p>Friends of Gippsland Bush Inc. recommend that the criterion for the eligibility for nomination for consideration and listing under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 should be extended to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• taxa below the level of subspecies and</li><li>• important populations containing unique gene pools merit special protection if their valuable genetic diversity is to be maintained.</li></ul> <p>An important example of a unique gene pool being the Strzelecki/South Gippsland koala population.</p> <p>The Strzelecki genome is the key source population(s) is/are located in the Strzelecki/Gippsland Plains bioregion. They are likely in recovery mode but still vulnerable to disturbance and their long-term survival will require an area / threat specific management plan to be developed.</p> <p>Of the existing objectives of the Act, the following clauses are the most important in ensuring the ongoing viability of distinct gene pools/ populations:</p> <p>Section 11 (4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To guarantee that all taxa of Victoria's flora and fauna other than the taxa listed in the Excluded List can survive, flourish and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild; and</li><li>• To ensure that the genetic diversity of flora and fauna is maintained.</li></ul> <p>The best time to consider conservation is before the population has become so small that options are limited (Penn et al 2000)</p> <p>Such considerations are not the normal basis for listing under the Flora and fauna Guarantee Act because the Act implicitly relies on the principle that value (and therefore eligibility) is positively correlated with scarcity rather than on ecological principles of resilience and sustainability, which would prioritise the maintenance of core populations.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> <p>  Friends of Gippsland Bush Inc.</p>