

St Arnaud Field Naturalist Club has the following comments to make on the Review:

Threatened species **are** threatened species should not be subject to political whim or dogma. There can be no exemptions or special treatments except in the direst of circumstances and these should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The Act should offer full protection to threatened species and communities.

The Review is heartening and certainly reflects the concern about and importance of our threatened species but needs to be strengthened up especially in the areas of compliance, response times to threats and empowering communities to take part in protection and recovery actions.

We ask that the Victorian Government puts the interests of threatened species on the same footing as commercial activities by removing exemptions and special treatments for government departments and industries.

We ask for timely and effective communications between all parties to disputes is required to achieve a better outcome for all.

We ask that the Minister be given stronger "stop and protect" powers with clear requirements to intervene when important species or habitats are under threat.

We ask that a policing body be established with stronger enforcement of the Act, penalties that reflect the seriousness of the matter and better monitoring of compliance and results.

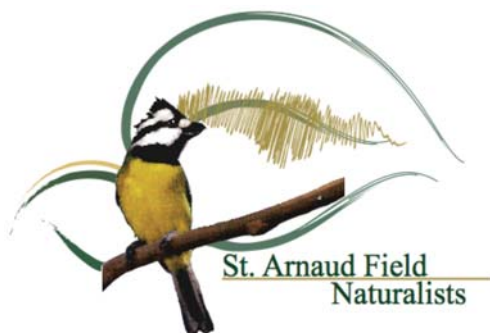
We ask for the setting of clear targets and timelines to direct investment and programs for threatened species protection and recovery, across the whole state. Short-term funding leaves recovery and protection programs in the lurch and less effective than they might otherwise be.

We ask that interested and suitably qualified and experienced parties within communities be given power of action and ability to initiate legal action to protect threatened species within their areas of interest.

signed:

[Redacted Signature]

President



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