

BENDIGO FAMILY NATURE CLUB (Nature Club)

bendigofamilynatureclub.blogspot.com.au

facebook.com/bendigofamilynatureclub

bendigonatureclub@gmail.com

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act Review – Discussion Paper Response

Bendigo Family Nature Club is a network of people who volunteer their expertise in a number of areas. BFNC coordinates 10 free activities per year encouraging children/minors and their carers to connect with nature via science, art and play. Volunteer experienced field guides with knowledge provide a lens on a subject and engagement with children.

Activities involve capture and release of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, Identifying Plants from eucalypts to tiny orchids. Learning about birds in our local area. Habitat creation projects including planting and re-snagging. Geology, heritage and Fungi.

There are very few areas of older trees in our region. The “Big Trees” of Wellsford Forest is one of few remaining “Old growth Sites”.

Nature Club is concerned with conserving nature for the children to come and therefore support the notion that FFGA be able to conserve habitat suitable for endangered species to ensure the creatures will be there for those children.

Nature Club supports a higher level of commitment from Government to biodiversity in the management of FFGA

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) system offers a sound base to maintain a single comprehensive list of threatened species.

FFGA represents the government’s commitment to nature conservation in Victoria. Nature Club encourages the government to support the idea of long-term continued survival of all species in the wild. Further, Nature Club wants to see resolve from government in support of strong regulation regarding a range of activities like road, rail or utility works.

Nature Club considers a future where there will be a regime of land management that will place higher values on biodiversity and conservation. A future where land management values may not widen or clear a roadway, in deference to maintaining existing remnant roadside flora and fauna as connecting country, and wildlife corridors. FFGA is required to protect and regulate utility works.

Nature Club is beginning to use Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA). Our field guides and affiliated groups have used VBA and have expressed that critical habitat maps for threatened species or communities in our local area be accessible in the Atlas.

Bendigo Family Nature Club is more likely to participate in activity post planning and development. However it is essential that opportunity is available to local groups that would like to be involved in the development and implementation of locally relevant threatened species and landscape action plans.