

14 March 2017

Northern Bendigo Landcare Group
PO Box 433, Epsom, 3551

aldopenbrook@impulse.net.au

<http://northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/northern-bendigo>



Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act Review - Discussion Paper Response

Introduction

NBLG has established habitat restoration projects in Huntly Streamside Reserve, a public land area along Bendigo Creek.

We found the FFG action statement for Whipstick Westringia to be an essential guide to our project work and would like to see more action statements produced for other species found in our area.

We regularly use the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas in our work. It would greatly assist us if critical habitat maps for threatened species or communities in our local area were accessible in the Atlas

NBLG would like to be involved in the development and implementation of locally relevant threatened species action plans and landscape action plans.

Improvements which address problems with the FFG Act are:

- new objective - 'protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity'
- biodiversity target to be included in biodiversity plan
- single comprehensive list of threatened species, communities and threatening processes
- critical habitat concept broadened to include areas important for ecological processes
- damage to habitat of threatened species or communities becomes an offence
- native vegetation clearing regulation breaches to be enforced under the FFG Act
- facilitating public engagement by improving accountability and transparency

Potential improvements not described are:

- continuing with production of single-species action statements
- Victorian Biodiversity Atlas to include critical habitat mapping for listed species on both public and private land
- maintaining the guarantee for conserving of threatened single species
- maintaining single-species protection within landscape action plans
- description of framework criteria are for landscape action plans
- description of criteria used for critical habitat mapping
- broadening protected flora controls to private land and forestry managed lands
- clarifying the division of controls between the FFG Act and the Wildlife Act
- description of how the FFG Act is to be used in monitoring and enforcement

Potential improvements NBLG considers most important are:

- facilitation of community group stakeholder involvement in locally relevant species action statements and landscape action plans
- continuing with production of single species action statements
- critical habitat mapping is incorporated into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas