

Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks

Submission to Review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

The Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks joins with other conservation groups in calling for five key elements to be included in new legislation

1. A fair go for threatened species: Threatened species provisions must be retained in the FFG Act and overhauled so that:

- All public authorities are required to comply with the provisions of the FFG Act to ensure that the provisions of the Act have greater effect across various spheres of government decision-making.
- Current exemptions to threatened species protections removed to ensure they apply to all sectors – including forestry – and apply on private, as well as public land.

2. Stronger stop and protect powers: There must be greater clarity around *when and how* the government is required to act to protect threatened species (as opposed to the existing discretionary tools).

3. A nature cop on the beat: The compliance and enforcement provisions of the FFG Act need a major overhaul, including a new entity to monitor and enforce the provisions of the FFG Act and a range of penalties for non-compliance.

4. Clear targets and timelines: The biodiversity plan that is currently being finalised by the government must have a stronger legislative framework, including the requirement to have simple, measureable and ambitious 20-year biodiversity targets.

5. Giving community power to act: so that they are able to take legal action to protect threatened species and for the FFG Act to also establish a framework to enable regional communities to develop landscape scale restoration action plans.

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