

Date:

28/03/2017

Review of the FFG Act
Regulatory Strategy and Design
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 500
EAST MELBOURNE 8802

To whom it may concern,

REVIEW OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA GAURANTEE ACT 1988

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Consultation paper – Review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*.

Wimmera CMA plays an important role in integrated catchment management and delivery of the threatened species objectives as part of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

The review explains the objectives of the Act and the regulatory mechanism to deliver it. However there is no discussion about the suitability of the purpose and the relationship with the objectives.

The review discusses the processes and improvements for listing a species however there is little discussion about the processes for delisting. In the Wimmera there is anecdotal evidence that some threatened species are above thresholds for listing. A lack of monitoring means some species may not be threatened and remain listed. There could be merit in investigating new approaches for listing and delisting. For example citizen science could be used to alert authorities about threatened species populations.

Incentives to assist landholders to manage their land through voluntary agreements has been a very efficient and effective approach. Opportunities also exist for land to be secured through purchase where landowners are willing to sell. In some situations this land can either be converted to crown land or incorporated into the Trust for Nature revolving fund.

Wimmera CMA looks forward to providing a key role in the protection of flora and fauna and the improvement of biodiversity through the regional delivery model.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation paper. Should you wish to discuss our submission please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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CEO
WIMMER CMA