

Environment and Communications
Answers to questions on notice

Hearing: EPBC Amendment (Standards and Assurance) Bill 2021
Division/Agency: Threatened Species Scientific Committee (Prof Helene Marsh)
Topic: Number of species recommended for a recovery plan
Hansard Page: 66
Question Date: 4 May 2021
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Thank you. The threatened species standard as tabled by the government relies on decisions not being inconsistent with recovery plans. What percentage of threatened species have recovery plans?

Prof. Marsh: That changes all the time and I can take that question on notice. All species have either a recovery plan or a conservation advice, and a lot have both, but, really, the critical issue is that those documents are framed, as Dr Burnett explained, as mandatory considerations. They're framed as advice to recovery teams or government investment. They are not framed as legally enforceable outcome-based standards. So the two things are really quite different.

Answer:

As of 18 May 2021, of the 2,004 threatened species and ecological communities that are currently listed, 1892 require a conservation planning document. Of the 1892 entities, 745 or 39% have recovery plans.