

December 14, 2012

Submission to Senate Inquiry about: **The effectiveness of threatened species and ecological communities' protection in Australia.**

Under current legislation, (i.e. the Victorian Flora and Fauna Act 1988 and the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) not all endangered or threatened species are protected, only those that have been listed.

I would like the federal and commonwealth governments to develop new policies to actually protect the threatened species as soon as they are listed and therefore the environment they live in, i.e. Leadbeaters Possum in the Victorian Highlands.

I am really worried about the fast loss of habitat for these little creatures, which require hollow bearing trees to live and breed in. Hollow bearing trees now days also require protection by law, because they are getting distinct by bushfires and logging. Bushfires are difficult to be prevented and impossible to be stopped by the law, but logging old growth forests for woodchips/ paper production can be stopped by relevant policies and enforcement by law.

Those actions for the protection of our threatened species are very urgent and can not wait a few more years.

Yours faithfully

Sabine Ritz-Kerr