

{a} The ongoing decline in the population and conservation status of Australia's nearly 500 threatened fauna species, can only be threatened by the effects of Climate Change. With sea level rises, flooding, drought and fires our fauna is in critical peril.

{b} The Government should take the lead: 1. Restore wetlands to properties and compensation to the for the area being restored.

2. Burning in National Parks is DESTRUCTION of HABITAT for no gain. An area of burn covering 500 ha is too large an area to burn in one part the area needs to be reduced to smaller MOSAIC BURNS. And this needs to be continued to protect threatened fauna.

{c} Burning kills wildlife and their food source. Most wildlife is territorial and can be killed by neighboring groups: e.g. Yellow Bellied Gliders and Sugar Gliders. Humans cause extinction's, Human activity needs to be curtailed in areas to stop their extinction of fauna species. A burnt area gets invaded by weeds and feral animals which are remarkably hard to remove once established.

{d} The EPBC Act is now 20 years old and needs to be modernized. It needs to be improved and strengthened. Do not reduce the EPBC Act's, instead strengthen the Act, it needs to protect threatened fauna and their threatening processes. .

{e} The adequacy and effectiveness of protections for critical habitat for threatened fauna under the EPBC Act 1999 has not occurred under the present Government because of the previous {a-d} answers. Climate Change, human interference and constant burning destroys threatened fauna and their food source. This must stop.

{f} The adequacy of the management and extent of the National Reserve System, stewardship arrangements, covenants and connectivity through wildlife corridors in conserving threatened fauna is totally inadequate. There is not enough of the systems in the far South West of the state and there is too much burning to any existing reserves . Reduce the burning regime to small mosaic burns to fix the system and add more Reserves in our area.

{g} Use traditional knowledge and management for threatened species recovery. Traditional people did not cause extinction of past fauna because they needed to hunt and they left an area if the numbers were low, they moved to another area where numbers were significantly higher. Traditional people were our first **Conservationists**. .

{h} The adequacy of existing funding streams for implementing threatened species recovery plans and preventing threatened fauna loss in general has been inadequate for years. Governments have cut the funding for

Conservation for many years. The funding needs to be upgraded to significant levels if we are to save threatened fauna considering the effects of climate change and its effects.

{l} The adequacy of existing monitoring practices in relation to the threatened fauna assessment and adaptive management responses. More monitoring of threatened fauna needs to be maintained.. Sufficient funding should be made available so monitoring can be carried out.

{j} The adequacy of existing assessment processes for identifying threatened fauna conservation status. In the far SW of Victoria we have not had people looking after threatened species except for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot. It was volunteers and a few Department people that monitored this species. I was a volunteer for over 20 years and was a member of the State Recovery Team.. There is very little chance to see other endangered species being monitored.

{k} The adequacy of existing compliance mechanisms for enforcing Commonwealth environment laws. In my 20 years experience I did not see any Commonwealth law enforcement in my area .

{l} Any related matters.

Climate Change is occurring in diminishing ice sheets in the Arctic circle and in Antarctica. Glaciers have been shrinking in recent years, some by 2 kilometers. Temperatures have risen by 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times. Four trillion tons of ice melted in the Iceland in a very short period. Methane is trapped in permafrost. Methane burns when released. Every country needs to act now to keep our temperature at no more than 1 degree increase.

We must replace wetlands on any low lying land for threatened fauna to survive.

It is humans that cause extinction's. It is humans that burn for no gain. We must go back to mosaic burning, instead of burning massive areas in our National Parks and Forests.

The Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, is 20 years old and needs to be modernized. The Act needs to be strengthened to make it better for threatened fauna and their food supply.

We need more Reserves and National Parks in our far SW of the State. With reduced burning our threatened fauna could survive long-term.

Funding needs to be increased to cover the cost of impending extinction.s.

Monitoring needs to be observed in our endangered species. Funding is important for our threatened fauna, and needs to be upgraded.

The Commonwealth laws are weak and need to be up graded and enforced..

Remember that Traditional Owners were the first conservationists.

Kay.Aldridge  
Secretary,  
Portland Field Naturalists Club