



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

11 August 2019

Dear members of the Environment and Communications References Committee,

Re: Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis

Thank you for the opportunity to update our submission on an issue of great importance to our group's members. Our previous submission is included in the Inquiry's list as Submission 69.

Since that submission was made, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) has completed its consideration of the listing application submitted by the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), concluding that the species should remain listed as Critically endangered. The Minister has accepted this recommendation, with effect from 22 June 2019.

The TSSC Conservation Advice also includes the following statement:

A recovery plan was recommended by the Committee in 2015 (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015) and this recommendation was accepted by the Minister. The recovery plan is in the advanced stages of preparation. The Committee again recommends a recovery plan be prepared and that the current draft be finalised as soon as possible.

The advice then lists Conservation objectives and actions drawn from the draft plan. These include establishment of, "an effective and fit-for-purpose recovery team".

Since the announcement by the Minister of her decision to retain the possum's Critically endangered status, we have written to her and to the Threatened Species Commissioner, urging release of the Recovery Plan and re-convening of the Recovery Team.

To date we have received no reply, nor has the Plan been released.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Meacher

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