

Thu 13/12/2012

Submission to senate inquiry on native species protection.

Endangered species like the Victorian Faunal Emblem, the Leadbeaters possum are close to extinction because the government's protection of them is not working. The cause of this animal and so many others going extinct is logging of our native forests.

The old habitat trees are felled to make way for young seedlings. This means less and less old hollow bearing habitat trees are left, and the endangered species that rely on these trees for habit are dying out. I am embarrassed as an Australian that in this rich country we can't even manage to protect our iconic animals from extinction, purely because we couldn't be bothered.

I understand the Federal government has some legislation and processes in place to protect endangered species. Clearly they are Micky Mouse processes as they have had zero effect to date of achieving anything useful as regards to protecting endangered species. The system needs a complete overhaul, and needs to result in the ability to protect forests on the ground from logging at short notice, as the states are clearly not interested in doing anything useful.

I urge the senate to come up with stiff protection for endangered species that means gazetting new national parks or World Heritage Areas, in a speedy manner, in time to save animals like the Leadbeaters Possum from extinction.

Stewart Kerr