

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 5
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Federally listed species in RFA areas
Hansard Page: 106 and 107
Question Date: 27 February 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: I will take that on board, absolutely. In terms of federally listed species in RFA areas, what measures are in place to protect them where a state lists a particular species at a lower level than the federal listing? What level of protection does the Commonwealth require the RFA to provide?

Mr Dadswell: Under the regional forest agreements, in addition to the comprehensive and adequate representative reserve system that was established with each agreement, each state agency is bound through their forest management practices to protect threatened species, and they have regard to both state and federal recovery plans and conservation advice.

Senator RICE: But, specifically, if the state has it listed at a lower level than the federal listing, what level of protection is required?

Senator Ruston: The higher level applies, doesn't it?

Mr Dadswell: It is up to the state in terms of looking at their conservation advice, but I will have to take it on notice for further detail.

Answer:

Under the Regional Forest Agreements, state governments are responsible for the day to day management of ongoing forest operations, including the protection of threatened species. Regional Forest Agreements provide a framework that enables forestry operations to be undertaken in accordance with threatened species recovery plans or other related statutory conservation planning documents.

Where a species in a Regional Forest Agreement area is listed under both the state threatened species legislation and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the state's forest management system will consider both listings in the management of the species. For example, in Tasmania, threatened species are protected under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (Tas) and the provisions of the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code 2015 (Code). The Code requires consideration of both Commonwealth and State listings. A combination of the Code, planning tools, management prescriptions and specialist advice is utilised to ensure that both Commonwealth and State listed species are managed in accordance with relevant legislation and statutory conservation planning documents.