

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 127
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Swift Parrot – Tasmanian RFA framework
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Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Rice asked:

Given the likelihood of reclassifying the species as critically endangered and the limitations imposed by the current Regional Forest Agreement and EPBC Act s.38 exemption on the Commonwealth's ability to ensure nationally endangered species are actually protected, is the Minister seeking changes to the Tasmanian RFA framework through the current RFA review process to ensure this species and others can be protected from extinction?

Answer:

The Australian Government views Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) as the most effective way of achieving the balance between environmental outcomes that support our native flora and fauna and their habitats, and the positive social and economic outcomes for regional communities provided by forestry.

In partnership with the Tasmanian Government, the Australian Government is negotiating the renewal of the Tasmanian RFA with the aim to reduce administrative burden, streamline processes, and seek improvements where practical and feasible. While it is not envisaged that wholesale changes will be made to the underpinning objectives of the RFAs, all clauses, including those pertaining to the management of threatened species will be reviewed.

A nomination to change the threat status of the swift parrot under the EPBC Act is currently being considered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee for possible recommendation to the Minister for the Environment.