

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

Question No: 92
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Leadbeater's possum draft recovery plan
Hansard Page: 122
Question Date: 26 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: Moving on to the Leadbeater's possum draft recovery plan, given the results of those reports and the Bayesian network model saying that the creation of the Great Forest National Park was the most effective action, what plan does the department have to restore the Leadbeater's possum recovery plan's activity, effectiveness and credibility?

Mr Andrews: That is not actually my responsibility; it is the Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division's responsibility. So I feel like I should let them answer that question.

Mr Thompson: That program area is 1.4, and the officers appeared earlier today. In relation to recovery planning, that is, as Mr Andrews indicated, the responsibility of the Wildlife, Heritage and Marine division. We would have to take that on notice.

Senator RICE: Okay, take that on notice.

Answer:

There is a recovery plan for Leadbeater's possum currently in place under the EPBC Act. Minister Hunt's recent decision to change the threatened status of Leadbeater's possum from endangered to critically endangered was accompanied by a decision to update the recovery plan for this species. Until such time as the existing recovery plan is updated, it remains in force.

For a new recovery plan to be made under the EPBC Act, the plan must provide for the research and management actions necessary to stop the decline of, and support the recovery of the listed species, so that its chances of long-term survival in nature are maximised.

The Department will work cooperatively with the Victorian Government to establish a recovery team for the development of a revised recovery plan. Broader stakeholder consultation will be undertaken in the development of the plan, and advice from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee will be sought on the plan's content prior to it being finalised by the Minister under the EPBC Act.