

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

Question No: 98
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Threatened Species List - lists maintained by the Department

Hansard Page:

Question Date:

Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

How current and comprehensive are the lists of threatened species maintained by the Department at the moment? Does each threatened species listed have a recovery plan or similar at the moment?

Answer:

The list of threatened species maintained by the Department on its website comprises the species which the Minister for the Environment has agreed to include in the list according to the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Australian Government is working with the states and territories to establish a common method for assessing the threat risk for species. The common assessment method will enable consideration of the national conservation status of species that are currently listed in other jurisdictions.

The Department is also encouraging expert groups to undertake threat status assessments of groups of species and prepare species expert assessment plans for consideration by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012 (published in July 2014) is a recent example of such a plan. Both the common assessment method and the species expert assessment plans will assist with updating the national threatened species list.

All species included in the list are required to have an approved conservation advice, recovery plan or a recovery plan in preparation. The requirement has been met for all species in the list.