

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 85
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Regional forestry agreements
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: Okay. In terms of the information that has been taken on notice for me, and the forest dwelling species which are listed which have got recovery plans, in forests that are subject to logging, my understanding is that the main mechanisms to be protecting those species are implemented through the regional forest agreements. That is correct, is it not?

Mr Knudson: That is correct. But in each of those regional forestry agreements, the state that is the manager of those will have their own management plans and actions that they will put in place to ensure that the RFA has that appropriate balance between ecological outcomes and forestry.

Senator RICE: As well as the current status, what was the status of those forest dwelling species when the regional forest agreements were first brought into being 20 years ago?

Mr Knudson: I am not sure how we would answer that because the EPBC Act would not have existed at that point, if I am correct in terms of the map.

Mr Oxley: Threatened species listing legislation predates the EPBC Act. All those listed species were grandfathered into the EPBC Act. So hopefully we can readily mine the data holdings we have to produce that information and come back to you on notice.

Answer:

Under Regional Forest Agreements respective State governments are responsible for the day to day management of ongoing forest operations. These management responsibilities include the protection of threatened species.

There are 537 threatened species currently listed under the EPBC Act for which a significant proportion (at least 50 per cent) of their mapped likely distribution occurs within Regional Forest Agreement areas. Of these, 387 were listed under the old Endangered Species Protection Act and subsequently transferred across to the EPBC Act in 2000. The other 150 have been added to the EPBC Act list of threatened species since, noting that their listing may be due to threats operating outside of forest communities.