

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

Question No: 49
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: CHRISTMAS ISLAND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLAN
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Singh asked:

This plan will serve as the recovery plan for 17 species listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), including the Christmas Island Pipistrelle and the Christmas Island Forest Skink – species which, as of 2009 and this year respectively, are believed to be extinct. Will the plan be updated to reflect the new reality?

a. What is the next most threatened terrestrial species on the Island?

Answer:

The draft Christmas Island Biodiversity Conservation Plan captures the latest available information on the status of all EPBC Act listed species, including the Christmas Island Pipistrelle and the Christmas Island Forest Skink, to inform proposed recovery actions.

a. There are five other Christmas Island terrestrial species listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act – *Pteropus melanotus natalis* (Christmas Island flying-fox), *Asplenium listeri* (Christmas Island spleenwort), *Pneumatopteris truncata* (a fern), *Cryptoblepharus egeriae* (blue-tailed skink) and *Lepidodactylus listeri* (Lister's gecko).