

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Inquiry into the Operation of the
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

Answers to questions on notice

Question Number 1
Division: Approvals and Wildlife Division
Branch: Wildlife Branch
Topic: Number of species listed as extinct under the EPBC Act
Hansard Page: 64-65

Senator McEwen asked:

- a) Can you respond to the assertion that in the last two decades there have not been any species declared extinct under the EPBC Act?
- b) How many of the threatened species listed under the EPBC Act are declared extinct or likely to be declared extinct?

Answers:

- a) There have been three species listed as 'extinct in the wild' or 'extinct' since the commencement of the EPBC Act.
 - *Galaxias pedderensis* (Pedder Galaxias) (a fish) listed as 'extinct in the wild' on 6 June 2005.
 - *Nyctophilus howensis* (Lord Howe Long-eared Bat) listed as 'extinct', on 4 April 2001.
 - *Vanvoorstia bennettiana* (Bennett's Seaweed) listed as 'extinct', on 16 October 2001.

All other species listed as extinct under the EPBC Act (4 frogs, 23 birds, 26 mammals, 48 plants) were listed on 16 July 2000 (carried over from the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*).

- b) The number of species currently listed as 'extinct' or 'extinct in the wild' is provided in the following table:

Extinct in the wild	Extinct
1 Fauna (Fish)	103 Fauna-54 Flora - 49

It is not possible to determine the number of species likely to be listed as extinct in the future.