

Julian and Deborah Guess

Submission to the Senate Enquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

We are writing to highlight the apparent ineffectiveness of the Federal Government's EPBC Act in conserving endangered Flora and Fauna and the apparent loop hole between this act and state based Regional Forest Agreements.

We live in Warburton - a small town east of Melbourne bounded by beautiful forests including the magnificent Mountain Ash, home of the endangered Leadbeaters Possum, Victoria's faunal emblem. Last summer we were very saddened to see so many trucks go through our small town carrying many saw logs from the forests between Warburton and Marysville. This same forested area is also a water catchment for Melbourne – in a time of drought and climate change it is surely foolhardy for both federal and state governments to allow this logging.

We strongly suggest that the EPBC Act be reviewed and the Act changed in such a way that areas covered under Regional Forest Agreements are also subject to the EPBC Act. The intent of this Act is to conserve ecological communities, not to allow further degradation of biological diversity, the destruction of carbon sinks and affect water quality and flows.

Regards

J&D Guess