



Why Australia needs **strong nature laws**

Australia has one of the worst extinction records on Earth. Our current environment laws are failing to protect our iconic animals and the forests, rivers and wetlands we love.

A once-in-a-decade review has recommended a complete overhaul of Australia's national environment laws and an independent regulator to enforce them. This is our chance to restore ecosystems and bring our wildlife back from the brink.

Australians agree and 505,872 people, including 9,538 from the Australian Capital Territory and 2,895 from your electorate of Bean, have signed ACF's petition demanding strong national laws that actually protect nature.

"The EPBC act is outdated and requires fundamental reform ... to shy away from the fundamental reforms recommended by this Review is to accept the continued decline of our iconic places and the extinction of our most threatened plants, animals and ecosystems. This is unacceptable."

Professor Graeme Samuel AC, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act Review.

We know what needs to be done to protect Australia and the Australian Capital Territory's unique plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations. Will you speak to the Minister for Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek about the urgent need for strong nature laws and an independent and well-resourced regulator to enforce them?



Why Australian Capital Territory needs strong federal nature laws

Habitat destruction impacts more threatened species than any other pressure, and yet in the ACF habitat is still threatened by bulldozers to make way for urban sprawl.

This year, the ACT's own animal emblem the Gang-gang Cockatoo was listed as an **Endangered species**. One of the main threats to the survival of this iconic bird is the destruction of mature trees which they need for nesting hollows, and yet, these mature trees continue to be bulldozed.

Current environment laws are failing to protect nature in the ACT. Between 2012 and 2021, 16.33 hectares of grassy woodland and native grasslands were destroyed in the ACT – even though they were listed as being Critically Endangered ecological communities.

Under current laws, do places like Lawson Grasslands even stand a chance? We need strong federal laws that actually protect the ACT's plants, animals and ecosystems.

Sources

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Australian Government: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. *Species Profile and Threats Database: Callocephalon fimbriatum – Gang-gang Cockatoo*.

Cox, L. 2022. 'ACT urges Tanya Plibersek to quash defence housing plan that would destroy critically endangered grasslands', *The Guardian*. 23 September.

Professor Graeme Samuel AC, *Independent review of the EPBC Act*. Final report: forward. 2020.