



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 10,097 from Tasmania, 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"The EPBC act is outdated and requires fundamental reform ...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 Tasmania's unique plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations. Will you speak to the Shadow Minister for Environment, Fisheries and Forestry Jonathan Duniam about the urgent need for strong nature laws and an independent and well-resourced regulator to enforce them?



Why Tasmania needs **strong federal nature laws**

Tasmanian ecosystems like our Gondwanan rainforests and Giant Kelp Forests have been identified by scientists as “collapsing”, meaning they have undergone such substantial negative changes they may not recover.

Our own state animal emblem, the Tasmanian Devil, is listed as being Vulnerable to extinction.

Habitat destruction is driving species like the Swift Parrot to the brink, and current laws are failing to protect it. This Critically Endangered bird only breeds here in Tasmania and has been reduced to around 750 mature individuals. Despite this, old hollow-bearing trees that provide the bird with suitable breeding habitat are still being destroyed by commercial loggers and cut down to make way for urban expansion and agriculture. At current rates, the Swift Parrot is on course for extinction by 2031.

The destruction of Tasmania’s nature is impacting local people too. Last year, 180 members of Tasmania’s tourism industry signed an open letter asking the government to end the logging of native forests. The state’s tourism lobby also walked away from its agreement with the forestry industry over concerns that the ongoing logging of Tasmanian forests is destroying our state’s nature and our ‘green’ reputation as a nature destination.

Current laws are failing the people, places and wildlife of Tasmania.

Sources

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Drone shot of misty treetops Rainforest Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP. *Photo:* Kerry Trapnell