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 40,275 from Western Australia, 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"The EPBC act is outdated and requires fundamental reform ...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 Western Australia'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?**

Nourlangie from Anbangbang Billabong, Kakadu National Park *Photo:* Ashley Whitworth/Shutterstock.com

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Why Western Australia needs strong federal nature laws

WA's very own animal emblem, the numbat, is listed as an Endangered species.

Habitat destruction impacts more threatened species than any other pressure, and yet here in Western Australia, **habitat continues to be bulldozed at an alarming rate.**

Western Australia comes second only to Queensland for the most habitat approved to be destroyed in Australia - over 66,000 hectares of land was cleared of native vegetation in WA between 2012 and 2021.

Current laws are failing to protect WA's unique nature from being flattened by bulldozers. Just this year, two property companies were fined only $250,000 for destroying 10 hectares of Endangered Black Cockatoo habitat for urban sprawl in Baldivis. The project is expected to earn them about $160 million, so the penalty is nothing more than a slap on the wrist and will do little to deter businesses from destroying more threatened species' homes in Western Australia in the future.

Current laws are clearly failing to protect WA's unique nature and wildlife.

Sources

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

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