



Our Ref: (A29)
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Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Western Australia
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

PUBLIC

Dear Mr Ellis

PETITION NO 81 – PRESERVATION OF WARRUP FOREST BLOCK

Thank you for your letter of 14 April 2011 seeking information on the manner in which the Conservation Commission of Western Australia handles matters relating to threatened species and forest management practices.

It is a function of the Conservation Commission to 'assess and audit the performance of the CEO and the Forest Products Commission in carrying out and complying with the management plans' (*Conservation and Land Management Act S 19 (1) (g) (iii)*). The *Forest Management Plan 2004 – 2013* (FMP) is a statutory plan within the meaning of the CALM Act to which the auditing function applies. Ministerial conditions also apply to the FMP namely that the Commission is required to submit mid-term and end-of-term audits of performance to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The mid-term audit of performance was prepared and submitted to the EPA in December 2008.

Specifically, within the requirements of the FMP, threatened species and communities are treated under a key performance indicator as follows:

Key performance indicator 2

The status of (critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, conservation dependent) forest-dwelling species and ecological communities as determined by listing.

Performance measure

List of species and ecological communities and their status that tracks movements of species between protection categories.

Performance target(s)

No species or ecological community will move to a higher category of threat as a result of management activities.

Reporting

Annually with the review of the lists.

Response to target shortfall

The Department to investigate the cause of a change to a more threatened category and report to the Conservation Commission and to the Minister for the Environment. The Conservation Commission to evaluate the need for revision of management practices, in the context of its assessment and auditing function, in consultation with the Department.

The Conservation Commission tries to ensure that any reports and other documents it prepares are made publicly available, usually by posting on the Commission's website. This is particularly the case for any formal audits that are undertaken. The mid-term audit of performance is published and publicly available and it is intended that this will also be the case for the end-of term audit of performance, which is required to be presented to the EPA by 31 December 2012.

In accordance with the FMP the Department of Environment and Conservation has provided information to the Conservation Commission regarding the change in status of three species of fauna, being the brush-tailed phascogale, the woylie and the red-tailed black cockatoo. The Commission is currently considering its response and I will provide further information once that process is completed.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Barblett AM
CHAIR

6 May 2011

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