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OUR BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

We need to make big changes urgently if our iconic Australian species are to survive.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Many of Australia's precious plants and animals are under threat like never before, from climate change and disease, as well as a rapidly expanding resources sector.

We need to protect the iconic Australian species we all know and love, like the koala and the Tasmanian

Put a stop to the extinction crisis threatening over 20% of Australian mammals

The Greens have a three year \$120m plan to identify and protect important habitat, and increase funding research.



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OUR BIODIVERSITY IN CRISIS

Australia is recognised globally as "mega-diverse" - over 80% of our mammals, reptiles and flowering plants and wildlife is facing an extinction crisis. Many of our famous and important animals and plants are classified as threatened.

The latest State of the Environment Report (2011) reported declines in many of our mammal species in 2010. 27 Australian mammals are listed as extinct, and over 20% of our remaining 386 mammal species are also at serious risk. Of our bird, reptile and plant species are also at serious risk.

Our threatened species don't just include obscure critters – Australia's iconic species like the koala and kangaroo are also at risk.

Remarkably, for all too many of our threatened species their critical habitats are not even properly mapped. We are on track to lose them before we even know they exist – so much more research is needed to understand how to help them survive.

THE GREENS' PLAN TO SAVE OUR NATIVE SPECIES

The Greens will chart the road to recovery for Australia's threatened species and ecosystems by strengthening protection across Australia's landscapes.

The Greens plan will identify and protect important habitat, and increase funding for threatened species. Our 100 million plan will:

- Provide \$30 million per annum to: Fund comprehensive studies to identify and map important habitat nationally (including critical habitat for threatened species and important wildlife corridors);

- Protect that habitat through bioregional plans that guide development and establish clear no-go zones for different activities. Bioregional plans would be developed in partnership with state and local governments where possible, and rolled out in priority areas;

- Provide \$10 million per annum to: Support the rapid listing of all species and ecological communities which belong to Australia's native species; Develop and resource the implementation of recovery plans and threat abatement plans for listed species and ecosystems; Fund additional research required to help turn around Australia's biodiversity decline;

- Restore Labor's \$470 million cut to the Biodiversity Fund, which the Greens helped establish as part of the Clearing Reform; Make sure federal veto powers over Australia's most environmentally damaging projects remain with the federal government.

THE GREENS STAND UP FOR OUR PRECIOUS NATIVE SPECIES

The Greens have a long track record of fighting for better protection for Australia's wildlife and precious ecosystems. We've fought for the \$1 billion Biodiversity Fund, a grants fund supporting local and regional groups to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and improve ecosystem health. The Labor Government slashed \$470 million from this Fund, which the Greens will fight to restore.

We instigated a Senate Inquiry into the plight of our koalas in Queensland, New South Wales and the ACT. The koala, an Australian icon, has dropped dramatically. This inquiry led to koalas in these states receiving extra protection.

by being added to our national threatened species list.

The Australian Greens initiated a Senate Inquiry into the effectiveness of threatened species and ecologists. Over 170 submissions were made by scientists, community groups and individuals across Australia, concerning our threatened species and ecosystems and what needs to be done. The Greens will work to secure strong and pursue rapid implementation by Government.

The Greens have also introduced legislation to set up a process to fast track (“emergency list”) protection. national government cannot hand its responsibilities for regulating Australia’s most environmentally damaged. these issues the Government and the Coalition refused to stand with us to put our wildlife before corporations. only the Greens can be trusted to stand up for our environment.

We also successfully spearheaded, with independents, the push for better protection for Australia’s waterways from seam gas projects. This will help improve protection of all our ecosystems that rely on healthy waterways.

LABOR AND THE COALITION ARE FAILING OUR WILDLIFE

In six years of government Labor has failed to deliver for our threatened species. They have approved what has been applied for, they failed to properly protect the ancient Tarkine rainforests, and they failed to press the Reef despite the World Heritage Committee’s significant concerns.

Labor signed up to the agenda of big business to have the final say on Australia’s most environmentally damaged. national government to state governments, only to be howled down by experts and the community alike. Labor refused to work with the Greens to Abbott-proof our national environment laws by outlawing any governments. These Greens amendments, motions and legislation would have ensured that responsible and wild places from the most damaging developments remained with the federal environment minister.

The Coalition is now promising to deliver big business’ destructive agenda of having state governments control environmental assets. While they claim it is to remove delay and duplication, there is no empirical evidence of burden or duplication or delay – the Coalition’s real intention is just to significantly weaken environmental protection.

Only the Greens can be trusted to stand up for our environment and to protect the places and the species.

 [Download the Protecting Species Initiative \(PDF, 148 Kb\)](#)

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