14th Dec 2012

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Submission to the Federal Senate Inquiry - The effectiveness of threatened species and ecological communities' protection in Australia.

Dear Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information for this inquiry.

I wish to specifically address the effectiveness of protection of the endangered Mary River Cod (*Maccullochella peelii mariensis*) and in particular Terms of Reference

(b) development and implementation of recovery plans,
(d) regulatory and funding arrangements at all levels of government; and
(f) the historical record of state and territory governments on these matters;

The Mary River Cod Recovery Team was established in 1994 and produced a draft Recovery Plan in 1996. I was on the Mary River Cod Recovery Team in 1999.

On the federal Environment website, the (draft?) Recovery Plan for the Mary River Cod states..
" Recovery criteria

- Self-sustaining populations established outside the present range by 2010.
- Conservation status of cod downlisted from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable' by 2010.
- Distribution of cod in the Mary River system increased to encompass at least 60% of their former known range by 2010. "

It also states " It is anticipated that many of the recovery actions will take significantly longer to undertake than the five year term indicated in the above table. Implementation of the Recovery Plan commenced in 1996, and it is planned to fully review actions and costing after five years (ie. 2001) "

Now in 2012, some 15 years later, to my knowledge there has been no official review of the recovery plan and there has been no meetings of the recovery team for over a decade. However some review work on the Mary River Cod was conducted during the assessment of the proposed

Traveston Crossing Dam but nothing with the recovery plan has been publicly reviewed or published by the Queensland State Government.

The development of the draft recovery plan involved the community and was well researched. However the implementation, the ongoing review process and funding support has not been there to achieve the recovery criteria.

Yours sincerely

Glenda Pickersgill