To whom it may concern.

Thank you for taking the time to conduct this inquiry and to consider this submission.
Let me start by saying that I am no environmental expert, but I know enough to realise the present arrangements, or lack thereof, for the preservation of threatened species are failing. I am a resident of Victoria, which is a good example of these failures. Indeed, both of Victoria's faunal emblems, the Leadbeater's Possum and the Helmeted Honeyeater, are in grave danger of extinction. For example, there are less than 100 Helmeted Honeyeaters in the wild, about the same number as the Leadbeater's Possum, whose habitat is still threatened by native forest logging. Even though these two species should be high on the priority list, efforts to protect them are either failing, or no real effort is being made.
The fact that no one is ultimately accountable is a major issue.
Another issue is the excessive focus on preserving ecosystems, to the detriment of some species. Although preserving ecosystems as a whole is a commendable goal, consideration should also be given to discrete parts of such ecosystems. Can an ecosystem be truly preserved if some of the species composing it are missing altogether?
There is no thorough process for identifying and listing threatened species. If a species makes it onto the list, it can take years to get Action Statements and Recovery Plans written, with implementation being subject to availability of funding.
Action Statements and Recovery Plans must be followed through, reviewed and updated on a regular basis in order to be efficient. Intentions are not enough, it is the end result that counts. This should be addressed by clarifying who is responsible for their implementation.
It seems that Action Statements and Recovery Plans are there to show “the Goverrnment is doing something”, but often fail to meet their stated objectives.
Australia is one of the richest nations in the world per capita, and it is unacceptable we can not find the means to secure the long-term viability of our threatened species.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jean Dind