

## CASE STUDY 1

### THREATENED SPECIES LEADBEATER'S POSSUM AND SWIFT PARROT

*Statement from the State of Environment Report*

*“The key pressures of habitat clearing and fragmentation, invasive species and climate change remain high on the list of pressures that threaten listed species and ecological communities, and biodiversity in general.”*

#### Failure of the current system

The Leadbeater's Possum and Swift Parrot are listed as a Critically Endangered under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. A critically endangered listing by the Federal Government means these species are at risk of extinction, and should be protected and recovered under national environmental law.

The primary threat driving both species toward extinction is the logging of important habitat. This logging is regulated through long term Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) which exempts logging industries from national environmental law. This exemption removes Commonwealth oversight for the protection of threatened species that occur within an RFA region.

The present system for protecting threatened species is fundamentally flawed. Despite a national critically endangered status, the key threat contributing to these species decline is legally exempted from the national environmental protections. An inherent conflict of interest between the states' economic interests and its environmental responsibilities results in the species losing out.

#### How the new system will help threaten species

The primary threat to Leadbeater's Possum and Swift Parrot is loss of important habitat. Most of this habitat loss is due to ongoing native forest logging operations.

Under the reforms proposed there will be no exemptions for any sectors. Logging of native forests will be treated the same as any other activity which will impact on environmental values for which the Federal Government is responsible.

