



South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc.

www.serca.org.au

Media Release

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Put Australia's extinction crisis on the election agenda

Environment groups are urging voters to make the protection of Australia's wildlife a federal election issue by challenging candidates to spell out how they plan to deal with the nation's looming extinction crisis.

"Australia is on the verge of another wave of extinctions and without urgent action many of Australia's unique species could be gone within 20 years," South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA) Spokesperson Prue Acton OBE said.

"We should not give up on them, that's why we are calling on people to ask local candidates in the federal election to take a stand and spell out their plans to tackle the problem.

"People expected the government to act swiftly to tackle the problem. The states aren't protecting wildlife well enough. They have let woodchipping and other industries degrade their habitats and wipe out thousands of animals.

"Now they have plans for large-scale electricity generation by burning native forest wood and vegetation. This new, destructive industry will make further extinctions inevitable. That is why we are asking voters to tell your candidates they expect urgent action."

Prue Acton said the Commonwealth Government had legal responsibilities to protect threatened species and must provide leadership on the issue.

"State and federal governments must take action to protect and restore remaining habitats, by developing and funding action plans," Ms Acton said.

"The state government must also reject plans to allow forest biomass and other native vegetation to be burnt to generate electricity.

"On the Far South Coast NSW, our last few dozen Southern Koalas are fighting for survival, yet the NSW government continues to subsidise the supply of woodchip logs to Nippon Paper's Eden chip mill from the Southern Region koala forest habitat.

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