

MEDIA RELEASE: 'Fantasy documents': recovery plans failing Australia's endangered species. Lisa Cox. 02.2018

Expired, unfinished or undeveloped: conservationists call for more transparency and accountability in species management systems.

Less than 40% of Australia's nationally-listed threatened species have recovery plans in place to secure their long-term survival.

And close to 10% of listed threatened species are identified as requiring plans to manage their protection but the documents are either unfinished or haven't been developed, according to data published by the environment and energy department.

Other critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable species have plans that are years or decades out of date and contain no detail on what actions have been taken to ensure a species avoids extinction.

Conservationists want an overhaul of Australia's national environment laws – the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act – to bring transparency and accountability to the country's opaque system of species management.

"Nobody seems to have ultimate responsibility for protecting them," said the Wilderness Society national director Lyndon Schneiders.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/20/fantasy-documents-recovery-plans-failing-australias-endangered-species>