

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Potentially Threatening Processes List

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Photo credits

Deer, Victorian Alps 2018 – Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research

Northern Pacific Seastar – John Lewis, ES Link Services Pty. Ltd.

Artichoke Thistle, Western Victoria – Marcia Riederer

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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Introduction

About the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) is the primary piece of Victorian legislation that provides for the conservation of biodiversity and the management of associated potentially threatening processes. Along with the listing of threatened species¹ and communities where they satisfy prescribed criteria in the Act and in the FFG Regulations, the listing of potentially threatening processes has also been a feature of the Act since its inception.

What is a potentially threatening process?

The FFG Act defines a potentially threatening process as ‘a process which may have the capability to threaten the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of any taxon or community of flora or fauna’.

Legislative provision

This document meets the following statutory requirement:

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Part 3, Division 1, section 11:

(1) The Governor in Council, in accordance with this section, must establish and maintain a list of potentially threatening processes.

(2) The Governor in Council may specify in the list under subsection (1) any potentially threatening process that the Minister, under Division 3, recommends should be specified in the list.

Listed potentially threatening processes

- Alteration to the natural flow regimes of rivers and streams.
- Alteration to the natural temperature regimes of rivers and streams.
- Collection of native orchids.
- Degradation and loss of habitats caused by feral Horses (*Equus caballus*).
- Degradation of native riparian vegetation along Victorian rivers and streams.
- Habitat fragmentation as a threatening process for fauna in Victoria.
- High frequency fire resulting in disruption of life cycle processes in plants and animals and loss of vegetation structure and composition.
- Human activity which results in artificially elevated or epidemic levels of Myrtle Wilt within *Nothofagus*-dominated Cool Temperate Rainforest.
- Inappropriate fire regimes causing disruption to sustainable ecosystem processes and resultant loss of biodiversity.
- Incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during longline fishing operations.
- Increase in sediment input into Victorian rivers and streams due to human activities.
- Infection of amphibians with Chytrid Fungus, resulting in chytridiomycosis.
- Input of organotins to Victorian marine and estuarine waters.
- Input of petroleum and related products into Victorian marine and estuarine environments.
- Input of toxic substances into Victorian rivers and streams.
- Introduction and spread of *Spartina* to Victorian estuarine environments.

¹ The FFG Act Threatened List was updated in 2021 following a reassessment of threatened flora and fauna in Victoria that was undertaken to comply with the national Common Assessment Method. This did not apply to potentially threatening processes and consequently the list of potentially threatening processes in this document were unchanged from the preceding 2016 version.

- Introduction of live fish into waters outside their natural range within a Victorian river catchment after 1770.
- Invasion of native vegetation by Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.
- Invasion of native vegetation by 'environmental weeds'.
- Invasion of native vegetation communities by Tall Wheat-grass *Lophopyrum ponticum*.
- Loss of biodiversity as a result of the spread of Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *sophorae*) and Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *longifolia*) into areas outside its natural range.
- Loss of biodiversity in native ant populations and potential ecosystem integrity following invasion by Argentine Ants (*Linepithema humile*).
- Loss of coarse woody debris from Victorian native forests and woodlands.
- Loss of hollow-bearing trees from Victorian native forests.
- Loss of terrestrial climatic habitat caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Poisoning of native wildlife by anticoagulant rodenticides.
- Predation of native wildlife by the cat, *Felis catus*.
- Predation of native wildlife by the introduced Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*.
- Prevention of passage of aquatic biota as a result of the presence of instream structures.
- Reduction in biodiversity of native vegetation by Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*).
- Reduction in biodiversity resulting from Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) populations in Victoria.
- Reduction in biomass and biodiversity of native vegetation through grazing by the Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.
- Removal of wood debris from Victorian streams.
- Soil and vegetation disturbance resulting from marble mining.
- Soil degradation and reduction of biodiversity through browsing and competition by feral goats (*Capra hircus*).
- Soil erosion and vegetation damage and disturbance in the alpine regions of Victoria caused by cattle grazing.
- Spread of *Pittosporum undulatum* in areas outside its natural distribution.
- The discharge of human-generated marine debris into Victorian marine or estuarine waters.
- The introduction and spread of the Large Earth Bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* into Victorian terrestrial environments.
- The introduction of exotic organisms into Victorian marine waters.
- The spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* from infected sites into parks and reserves, including roadsides, under the control of a state or local government authority.
- Threats to native flora and fauna arising from the use by the feral honeybee *Apis mellifera* of nesting hollows and floral resources.
- Use of *Phytophthora*-infected gravel in construction of roads, bridges and reservoirs.
- Wetland loss and degradation as a result of change in water regime, dredging, draining, filling and grazing.