

NSW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Mr Terry Bailey
Chief Executive
Office of Environment and Heritage
PO Box A290
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1232

Dear Mr Bailey,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Priorities Action Statement amendments. It was difficult to locate these amendments on the OEH website and it is suggested that for future amendments a link to the Proposed PAS amendment webpage be placed on the OEH public consultation page so they can be easily found.

The Committee does not have any suggested amendments to the Landscape Species Strategy.

The Committee has not been able to review all the proposed PAS amendments within the exhibition period due to the large number on display. However, some general comments and suggestions are provided.

- The actions in the amended strategies for many species appear to be rather generic and less detailed and species specific/appropriate than those in the current strategy. In some instances the actions are either not very practical or some may have been confused between species. For a number of the bats species, the actions refer to doing things around known roosts, but these are virtually unknown for tree-hollow roosting bats, unless a radio-tracking study has been undertaken. Even then, bats switch roosts regularly, which makes managing known roosts problematic. As an example, below is an action for Golden-tipped bats which mentions "roost caves", but this species does not roost in caves.

"Raise awareness among agricultural landholders in close proximity (approximately 15km radius) to maternity or hibernation roost caves, of the potential impacts of using harmful pesticides and other chemicals and discourage their use in or adjacent to habitat areas."

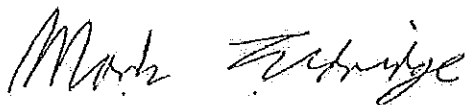
- In addition, the maps provided for most of the bats and some other species should be reviewed as in many instances they don't portray the distribution of the species very accurately.

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- The link provided to the profile on the OEH website is said to be for information on the threats but the profiles also provide images of the species and other information so perhaps the text with that link could be reworded.
- *Meridolum corneovirens*, the Cumberland Plain Land Snail.
There are recent papers covering this species which OEH may wish to add to the species profiles on the website. They are:
 - + Clark, SA (2009) A review of the land snail genus *Meridolum* (Gastropoda: Camaenidae) from central NSW. *Molluscan Research* 29, 61-120.
 - + Ridgeway PA, Lindsay K, Pou, D, Visintin A (2014) Indications of diverse behavioural ecologies in the morphologically conservative Australian land snails *Pommerhelix* and *Meridolum* (Stylommatophora: Camaenidae) *Molluscan Research* 34, 25-39, DOI: 10.1080/13235818.2013.866179
- *Petalura gigantea*, the Giant Dragonfly.
The map does not have the NSW distribution clearly indicated. This is shown on the profile on the OEH website but not on the map provided with the proposed new PAS.

While some PAS actions may have been developed through expert workshops they should still be guided by the literature and be responsive to information derived from future research. As these 'species actions' will be important in directing future threatened species funding, is there a quick and easy process to review and refine PAS statements in future in response to an increased knowledge of species arising from research?

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Eldridge
Chairperson
NSW Scientific Committee

18 SEP 2015