

AUSTRALIA'S NEW GENERATION OF NATURE LAWS



Great Otway National Park. Photo by BirdLife Australia

Act for Birds, Act for Nature

Australia is full of special places — places with wonderful birds, spectacular scenery and beautiful wildflowers. And yet few of these special places receive the level of protection they should, and many are under threat from all kinds of complex environmental challenges.

Our current nature laws are inadequate, unable to deal effectively with the big issues facing our birds — habitat loss, development, fire, feral animals and climate change. They're all pushing nature, including our birds, to the brink.

Current legislation, including the national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999, has failed to deliver the protections it promised.

'Act for Birds' is about championing a new generation of nature laws so we can fix these problems — for good.

We are aiming for a more effective, comprehensive and efficient system to be implemented. We need a system where all Australians can participate in key decisions in a consistent way, no matter where they are. We need all decisions to be transparent. We need an accountable decision-maker to ensure major environmental issues are managed for the benefit of all.

Most importantly, we need a system which is designed so that Australia's natural heritage is adequately protected and restored, to ensure we don't have to keep fighting the same battles, again and again.

How can you get involved?

1. Spread the word about nature laws, why they're necessary and why you care
2. Show up at a local event or group — stay tuned for news of a BirdLife Australia-led event near you!
3. Advocate for stronger nature laws in the media or contact your local Member of Parliament

What are we calling for?

Drawing on the work of the Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL), BirdLife Australia — together with our partners in the Places You Love Alliance — is calling for:

- A new generation of environment laws that genuinely protect our unique birdlife
- Independent institutions that set science-based national environmental standards, and operate transparently and independently of government
- Guarantee community rights and participation in environmental decision-making

What is the Places You Love Alliance?

The Places You Love Alliance is a united collection of like-minded organisations and people, all standing together to protect the places and wildlife we love. Together, we represent over 1.5 million Australians — people who love our national parks, our wildlife, our ancient landscape.

The Alliance was formed to safeguard against the rolling-back of national environmental protections. Now we have expanded our ambition, looking to galvanise Australia's nature-loving community to stand up for nature and fight for stronger, more effective and efficient national environment laws.

Find out more:

- actforbirds.org
- birdlife.org.au
- placesyoulove.org