We know our national nature laws are not doing enough to halt the extinction crisis. But following a once in a decade review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act by Professor Graeme Samuel, we now have a blueprint for change to deliver nature laws that actually protect nature.

But to see those recommendations enacted into law, we will need representatives committed to deliver stronger nature laws.

**What’s the ask of candidates and nature laws for this election?**

1. **Contact your candidates and ask them to commit** to raising stronger nature laws in their maiden speech to parliament if they get elected, let them know we need
   - a government that will implement stronger national environment laws that protect nature and an independent regulator to enforce them.
   - a government that is ready and willing to fund the recovery of Australia’s threatened species and the restoration of ecosystems.

2. **Ask them for a meeting or invite them to an event, e.g., a bird walk to talk about the issues** – Sharing the birds that you love will show them what’s at stake, and also create a social media opportunity they will be more likely to share.

3. **Use Twitter to get the message out to candidates**, see the below example of how to tweet the message.

   @KristyMcBain, #Swift Parrots are endangered in Eden Monaro, I need a government that will implement stronger national environment laws that protect nature, and an independent regulator to enforce them.

**Use the Action plan for Australian birds as key evidence to why we need stronger laws**

Launched last year by BirdLife Australia and Charles Darwin University, the Action plan maps the trajectory for threatened bird species and their habitat.

**Pull one or two facts from the below to reference when chatting to your candidates:**

Australia has one of the worst records for extinctions and land clearing in the world. The number of species that are threatened with extinction continues to grow, and the status quo is unsustainable.
The drivers of decline largely driven by the actions of humans; the need for resources to support agriculture, extractive industries, and urban development.

If birds are an indicator for nature's health, we are in trouble.

- The Action Plan assessed that 1 out of every 6 Australian birds is now threatened with extinction, totalling 216 threatened birds.
- The impacts of climate change, fire, habitat destruction and feral predators are the main drivers for many birds being pushed towards extinction.
- 26 birds have become more threatened as a result of the 2019-20 summer bushfires, including the once abundant Gang-gang Cockatoo, now considered Endangered.
- 17 tropical rainforest birds have become more threatened as climate change impacts their cool upland rainforest habitat, including the Golden Bowerbird, now considered near threatened.
- The last decade has seen unprecedented drought, fire and heat such as never experienced before, compounding the growing list of threats already being battled.

Further background on what our nature laws need

Our current national environmental laws are not strong enough to protect critical habitats or recover threatened species. The EPBC Act is in desperate need of reform, and post the statutory 10-year independent review by Dr Graham Samuel, we now have a blueprint for change, it looks like this

- Strong National Environmental Standards to protect the wildlife, plants, and places we love.
- An independent federal regulator to enforce the law.
- Access to justice so the community has a legal voice in standing up for the environment.
- Nature laws that truly value and incorporate the rights, knowledge, and culture of First Nations people.
- a quantum leap in investment for threatened species, habitat and ecosystem recovery and threat abatement, including better monitoring, data collection and evaluation.