

# Media release

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## TCT response to Audit Office Threatened Species Review

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust welcomes the recommendations of the Tasmanian Audit Office Special Report on Management of Threatened Species and calls on the Tasmanian Government to respond by strengthening the pathetically inadequate Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act* and providing substantially greater funding for the Department of Primary Industries and Water to implement the act.

“The most important recommendation by the Audit Office is the recognition that habitats of threatened species must be identified and management but they should have gone further to recommend amendments to the Threatened Species Protection Act are needed to require the Government to identify habitats and protect them from destructive activities,” said TCT Acting Director Peter McGlone.

“The biggest flaw in the 14 year old *Threatened Species Protection Act* is that it does nothing to protect habitats and it is about time that this fundamental failing in legislation is addressed. It is disgraceful in 2009 that the law protects an individual threatened plant or animal from someone destroying it does not protect the habitat the species depends on to survive in the long-term,” Mr McGlone added.

“The Audit Office recommendation that plans be developed for introduced pests and diseases is also supported but this must be incorporated into the *Threatened Species Protection Act* as is the case with the Commonwealth legislation and funding must be provided for implementation of the plans” Mr McGlone said.

“The suggestion by the Audit Office that the Department must develop more efficient methods of prioritizing and monitoring threatened species and providing advice to land owners, councils and others is a fair criticism. However, this is an issue they have known about for some time but the government fails to support them with funding,” Mr McGlone concluded.

### **Further information:**

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