



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Ref: c12/3638

Tee KaY
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Dear Ms Kay

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2012 to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, concerning the status of Leadbeater's possum. The Minister has passed your letter to me for reply.

Regarding the possible review of the national listing status of the Leadbeater's possum, the process for nominating a species for listing (or change of status) is stipulated under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This entails an annual cycle that includes a public call for nominations. The most recent call for nominations closed on 22 March 2012 and as required under the legislation the department now has 30 business days from the close of nominations to provide nominations to the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC). Although nominations have closed, Professor Lindenmayer's letter will be included in the nominations to be provided to the TSSC for consideration. Please be aware however that as the letter itself does not satisfy the usual requirements of a nomination, the TSSC is under no obligation to consider it.

I also note that as the Leadbeater's possum is already listed as a national threatened species under the EPBC Act, it already receives legislative protection under national environment law.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deb Callister', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deb Callister
Assistant Secretary
Wildlife Branch
(8 April 2012