



Frequently asked questions - Key Threatening Processes and Threat Abatement Plans

Key Threatening Processes

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee undertakes assessments of nominations to list processes as 'key threatening process' under national environmental law.

1. **What is a key threatening process?**

- A process can be listed as a key threatening process if it could:
 - cause a native species or ecological community to become eligible for inclusion in a threatened list; or
 - cause an already listed threatened species or threatened ecological community to become more endangered; or
 - adversely affect two or more listed threatened species or threatened ecological communities.

2. **Why do assessments happen?**

- Anyone may nominate a native species, ecological community or threatening process for listing under national environmental law: the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- An assessment of the nominated process for listing under national environmental law will be undertaken by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee if the Minister agrees by including it on the Final Priority Assessment List. The Final Priority Assessment Lists can be found at:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/biodiversity/threatened-species-ecological-communities/listing-assessments/finalised-priority>
- Consultation is an early stage in an assessment process and the Minister's decision on the outcome is not due until after the Committee considers the comments received and prepares its advice.

3. **Will listing a key threatening process interfere with my property management?**

- Listing a key threatening process does not regulate or prevent actions undertaken by the states, territories or individual property managers.
- Key threatening processes do not trigger the EPBC Act (key threatening processes are not matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act).

4. **Will listing a process as a key threatening process force me to change or modify practices or management on my property?**

- Listing a key threatening process and the associated advice can help you manage your land or practices to improve opportunities for biodiversity.

- Listing a key threatening process does not regulate or prevent actions undertaken by property managers.
- Key threatening processes do not trigger the EPBC Act (key threatening processes are not matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act).
- Listing a key threatening process does not cause any change to property practices.

5. *What is the point of the assessment? And what are the consequences?*

- Listing key threatening processes provides formal recognition that a process is a key threat to biodiversity at the national level. This raises awareness of how threats to biodiversity are operating across Australia and assists with understanding and prioritising management of these threats.
- Listing a key threatening process and the associated advice can help you manage your land or practices to improve opportunities for biodiversity.
- If a process is listed as a key threatening process, the Minister must decide if a threat abatement plan is a feasible, effective and efficient way of addressing the issue.
- If the threatening process is listed and, the Minister decides not to have a threat plan, the listing of a key threatening process—in itself—will help managers know and understand about the threat that the process can pose to biodiversity. The listing can also help identify priorities for planning and research.
- If the threatening process is listed and, the Minister thinks that a threat abatement plan is a feasible, effective and efficient way of abating the process, they must ensure a threat abatement plan is in force.

Threat Abatement Plans

6. *What is a threat abatement plan and what is the point of a plan?*

- If the threatening process is listed and, the Minister thinks that a threat abatement plan is a feasible, effective and efficient way of abating the process, they must ensure a threat abatement plan is in force.
- Plans establish a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to key threatening processes.
- They identify research, management and other actions needed to ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities affected by key threatening processes. They usually have accompanying background documents which provide information on the biology, distribution, impacts and current management practices relevant to the threat.

- 7. Will I be consulted about whether there should be a Threat Abatement Plan to abate the threat if it is listed?**
- Consultation on a key threatening process assessment asks for information and your views about whether a threat abatement plan is a feasible, effective and efficient way of managing the process, should it be listed. These views will be provided to the Minister before they make a decision about whether to have a threat abatement plan.
 - Anyone with an interest can participate in the process by reading the consultation information and making a submission.
- 8. If I provide comment through a consultation process, what will happen with my comments?**
- All comments received through the consultation process will be provided to the Threatened Species Scientific Committee for consideration in preparation of its advice to the Minister.
 - All comments received through the consultation process are also provided to the Minister before they make a decision about whether to have a threat abatement plan.
- 9. Will I be consulted about what will be in a Threat Abatement Plan?**
- If the Minister makes a decision to have a threat abatement plan, the Minister must consult widely before finalising and putting a plan into force.
 - Consultation includes advertising and inviting comment on the plan during a specified period.
- 10. What are the consequences of a threat abatement plan?**
- Once a threat abatement plan is put in place, Australian Government agencies must comply with, and implement, the plan in areas under Australian Government control and responsibility.
 - In instances where a threat abatement plan applies outside Commonwealth areas, the Australian Government must seek the cooperation of managers, with a view to jointly implementing the plan.