



RECOVERING FROM DISASTER

EIANZ VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is committed to the protection and enhancement of our nations' biodiversity. Recent news reports of Australia's refusal to sign a global pledge endorsed by 64 countries committing them to reverse biodiversity loss because it was inconsistent with Australia's policies is extremely disappointing.

EIANZ President Dr Bryan Jenkins says "the EIANZ is shocked and disheartened by the Australian Government's position on signing up to this critical international accord for biodiversity protection. It places Australia on the same vein as major polluters, such as the United States and China, with no consideration to the global implications of such decisions. By contrast, the EIANZ is pleased and encouraged by Prime Minister Ardern's pledge to reverse biodiversity loss in New Zealand."

This week marks National Bird Week. Last summer's bushfire season in Australia caused extensive damage to biodiversity and species populations. Of the 28 species identified as priority species to have their conservation status assessed, 12 are birds. These include two species only found on Kangaroo Island, the Kangaroo Island crimson rosella (*Platycercus elegans melanopterus*) and Kangaroo Island White-eared Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus leucotis thomasi*).

The Board of the EIANZ says "birds are critical to an effectively biodiverse natural environment. Without birds, our environments lose key pollinators and seed dispersers. Who would have thought that the extinction of the dodo would lead to the loss of its primary food tree, due to lack of seed dispersal?"

The EIANZ also recognises the importance of indigenous land management practices across Australia and New Zealand as a way of managing pest species, reducing the impact of fire and maintaining a natural ecosystem. We must integrate modern technologies with these fundamental cultural practices to achieve the best outcomes for the flora and fauna ecology of our nations.

Our members and Certified Environmental Practitioners (CEnvP) are well placed to assist the Australian and New Zealand Governments and industries to identify and promote ecologically sustainable development outcomes with effective results for our natural environment. The Institute encompasses an Ecology Special Interest Section and specialist CEnvP category for ecologists. The EIANZ will continue to promote excellence in practice and is an active participant in industry advocacy.

We invite you to join us for our Annual Conference online, this year focussing on Recovering from Disaster. This week's session on Wednesday, 21st October will be facilitated by Dr Ailsa Kerswell. We will hear from Nathan Garvey, who will provide insight into the survival of the Smoky Mouse (*Pseudomys fumeus*) following the devastating bushfire season of 2019-20, and Cristina Zenato, the Mother of Sharks, joining us from The Bahamas to talk about the interconnectivity of caves and shark conservation.

Learn more & register >

