



**Wafa**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
FOREST ALLIANCE

**MEDIA RELEASE**

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

**New Government must act urgently to save Western Ringtail Possums**

The WA Forest Alliance is calling on the new State Government to act quickly to prevent the extinction of WA's iconic Western Ringtail Possum.

"It is clear that unless the habitat of these wonderful creatures is urgently protected from logging, clearing and inappropriate fire regimes we will lose them. We will be the generation who failed and oversaw their extinction," said Wafa convener Jess Beckerling.

"The Barnett Government passed new biodiversity conservation legislation last year that was hotly contested by the environment sector, Labor and The Greens for failing to provide adequate protection for WA's plants, wildlife and ecosystems.

"In spite of its shortcomings, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* (2016) does give the Minister powers to protect critical habitat and we are calling on the Minister to use those powers urgently.

"Wafa is seeking immediate action from the new Environment Minister. We are asking Minister Dawson to use what powers the new *Biodiversity Conservation Act* (2016) does provide to protect habitat for the Western Ringtail Possums and, where the Act is not up to task, to make the necessary changes as a matter of priority.

"Forests that are known to be critical habitat for Western Ringtail Possums are still being clear-felled even though the timber industry is operating at a financial loss to the State.

"Scientific studies have shown that up to 70 per cent of individuals die within two weeks of a logging operation.

"There is no sense in this continuing. All habitat for Western Ringtails must be protected and managed for their survival and recovery," said Ms Beckerling.

The WA Forest Alliance is the peak forest conservation organisation representing more than 20 forest groups in Perth and the South-West. Information on the effects of logging on the Possums is available here <http://forestsforlife.org.au/wildlife/possum-2/>

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