



Environment  
Defenders  
Office

# **Taming of a wild law the sorry story of the the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**

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Brendan Sydes  
Environment Defenders Office  
Victoria

*“to guarantee that all taxa of Victoria's flora and fauna other than the taxa listed in the Excluded List can survive, flourish and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild”*

*Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988  
Section 4*

*s4(2) A public authority must be administered so as to have regard to the flora and fauna conservation and management objectives.*

One of the principles of the World Conservation Strategy states that because we have the power to change ecosystems radically, we are morally obliged to respect the intrinsic value of other species and to act prudently in their interests. Many people believe that species and natural systems have the right to exist independent of their value to humanity.

Draft Flora and Fauna Guarantee Strategy, 1992

# The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 “on paper”

**Species,  
communities**

**Threatening  
processes**

**Strategy**

**Action  
Statements**

**Critical habitat  
determinations**

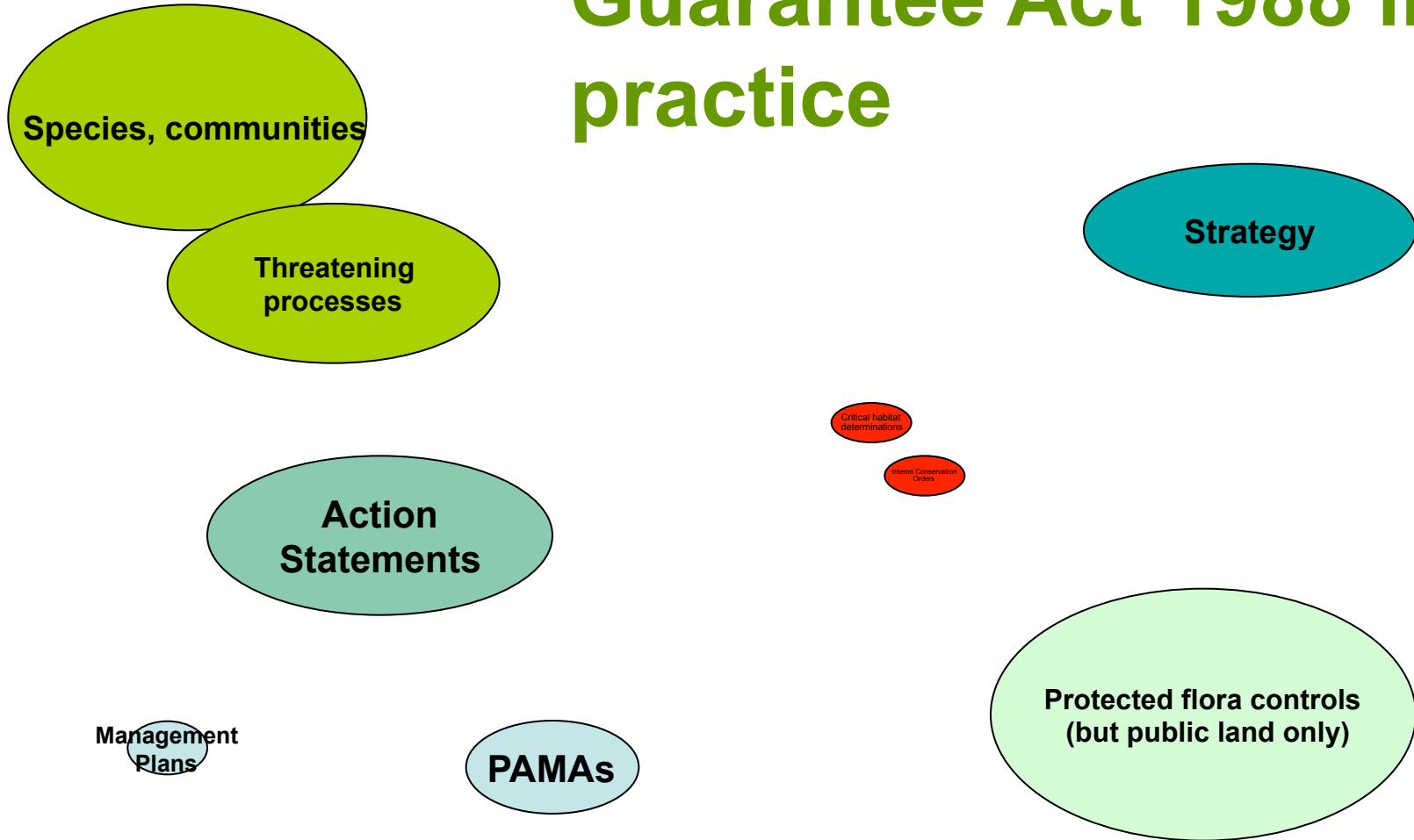
**Interim Conservation  
Orders**

**Management  
Plans**

**Public Authority  
Management Agreements**

**Protected  
flora**

# The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 in practice



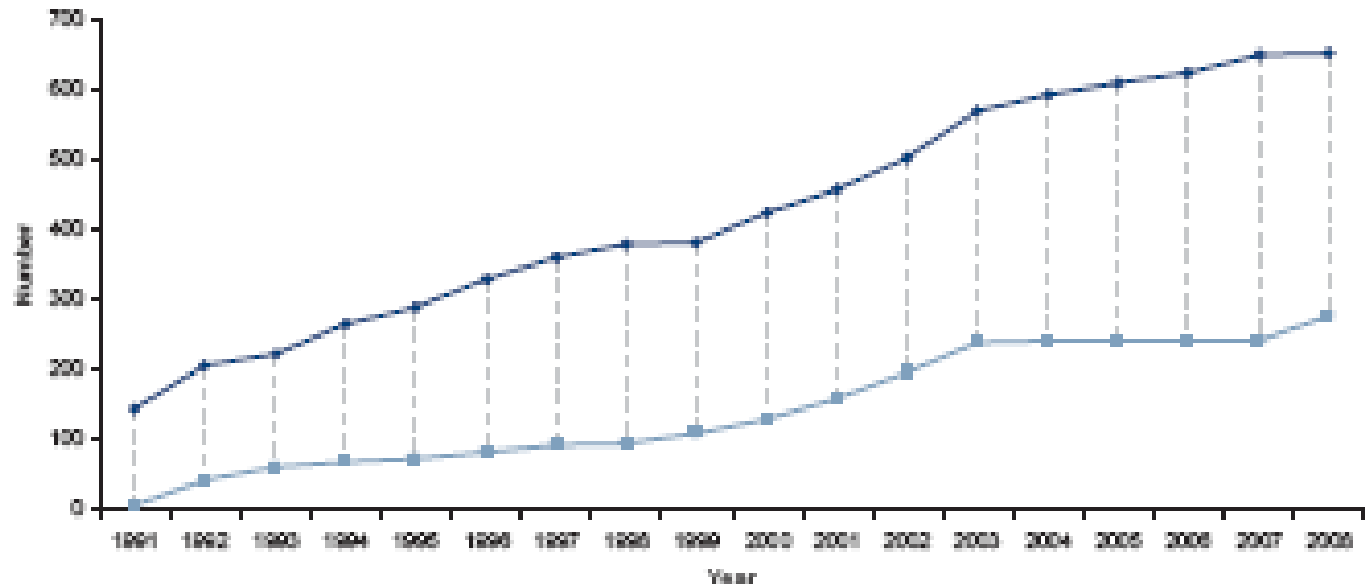
*The lack of baseline data and outcome or output performance measures means it is not possible to conclude whether the Act has achieved its primary objectives. The available data, which is patchy, indicates that it has not.*

Administration of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988  
Victorian Auditor General's Report  
April 2009

# Action Statements

*“At the current rate, and assuming no additional items listed, it would take 22 years to develop action statements for the remaining listed items”*

Figure 5C  
Rate of listing compared to the rate of action statement development









Frankston Spider Orchid

*Caladenia robinsonii*

Brendan Sydes

[brendan.sydes@edo.org.au](mailto:brendan.sydes@edo.org.au)

8341 3100

